

Soviets cast doubt on U.S. version of Gulf incident

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Armed Forces Chief of Staff Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev suggested on Wednesday that Moscow did not accept the Washington version of Monday's U.S. attack on an Iranian vessel in the Gulf.

"It is difficult to say if Iran was caught red-handed. We were not there," Marshal Akhromeyev said during a live televised discussion between deputies to the Soviet parliament and members of the United States Congress.

The marshal had been asked by U.S. Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, who said the Iranians had been caught laying mines in international waters, for the Soviet reaction to the affair.

"But if it were the case that the Iranians were laying mines, there is no justification. It would be a violation of international law," Marshal Akhromeyev added.

At the same time, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda accused the United States of exercising "the law of the big fish" in the Gulf.

In a report from Washington, it said the attack on the Iranian vessel, which Tehran says was an innocent merchant ship, "in effect amounts to direct American intervention in the Iran-Iraq conflict."

The wording of the Pravda report suggested clearly that the U.S. account was not to be believed.

"As a Pentagon spokesman asserted, the excuse for the attack was 'suspicion' that the (Iranian) vessel's crew was laying mines," Pravda said.

"But no-one can vouch for whether the information is correct or not since, as the U.S. network CBS underlined, the incident took place in the dark."

Pravda said it was ironic that the affair had taken place soon after President Ronald Reagan had assured the United Nations General Assembly in New York

that the United States had no aggressive intentions in the Gulf.

"The emptiness of the high-flown declarations of the boss of the White House was put under spotlight by the fire on the Iranian vessel," the Communist Party daily said.

"The Washington arguments that this was 'self-defence', a defensive action, can only mislead the uninformed, who will not think of asking themselves the following logical question:

"What right does the United States have in general to launch unilateral military action in a region many thousands of kilometres away from its own borders?"

The United States said on Tuesday the attack on an Iranian ship it said was laying mines was justified under the United Nations Charter.

"Every state has, under the U.N. Charter, the right to use reasonable and proportionate force in self-defence, including the defence of its warships or other vessels flying its flag, against actual or imminent attack," State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley told reporters.

"In particular, where mines are laid in international waters which threaten the safety of U.S. vessels navigating in the area, we have the right to respond with the force necessary to terminate that threat," she said.

"That was the case in the current incident," Mrs. Oakley said the Iranian landing craft Iran AJR was caught red-handed laying mines in international waters of the Gulf.

"Such actions are a direct threat to U.S. warships and flag vessels in the Gulf, as was clearly demonstrated by the Bridgeton incident," Mrs. Oakley said.

Washington says it has sent a large fleet of ships to the vital waterway to protect the freedom of navigation and keep oil flowing to the West.

On the first escort of convoys of Kuwaiti ships re-registered as American in July, the supertanker Bridgeton hit a mine U.S. officials said had been laid by Iran.

Mrs. Oakley said the attack on the Iran AJR by an American helicopter in which at least three sailors were killed was aimed at stopping it from laying mines.

Reagan administration officials said on Tuesday that night is like day in the world of electronic warfare and that is how U.S. military helicopters caught the Iranian navy boat laying mines in the Gulf.

"The crew of those choppers can look through the FLIR (forward-looking infra-red) device at night and see a fuzzy green TV picture that turns right into day," one of the officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

In layman's terms, FLIR picks up the heat from bodies, engines and equipment and electronically enhances it to generate a television picture.

"A good one (infra-red device) has about the same resolution as a black-and-white television," said Lonnie Schuepbach of defence contractor FLIR Systems Inc. of Portland, Oregon, which builds the devices.

Defence officials told Reuters the Iranian crewmembers apparently did not realise they were being watched as they dumped mines after dark into Gulf waters used as an anchorage by tankers plying the international oil-shipping lanes.

De Mita voices opposition to Italy's Gulf naval mission

ROME (R) — The leader of the Christian Democrats, Italy's most powerful party, has raised a political storm by expressing strong doubts about the government's decision to send warships to the Gulf.

"Every day the Italian naval mission risks becoming simply an adventure... It would be better if the ships never arrived," Ciriaco De Mita told journalists on Tuesday after the latest flareup in Gulf attacks.

"There are no proper guidelines. It's all confused... What if they launch a missile against us? What will we do? Shoot back at the moon?" Mr. De Mita, in Sicily on holiday, said in an impromptu news conference.

The five-party government of Christian Democrat Prime Minister Giovanni Goria decided on Sept. 4, after a grenade attack on an Italian freighter, to send an eight-strong minesweeping and escort force to protect Italian merchant shipping in the Gulf.

The move, which reversed a policy of waiting to see the outcome of United Nations attempts to achieve a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, was approved by parliament in a vote of confidence. The naval mission set sail on Sept. 15.

Mr. De Mita said he had never been happy with the idea but had refrained from voicing his objections for fear of provoking a crisis in the ruling coalition, formed only last July after a five-month political vacuum.

The Christian Democrat leader's remarks provoked a storm of criticism. The opposition Communists and the Liberals, junior members of the coalition, accused Mr. De Mita of playing political games which put the lives of Italian sailors in jeopardy.

"His remarks are outrageous. He is playing around with national interests and the lives of those who have gone to defend them... Parliament and the public cannot be taken for a ride," the Communist Party daily L'Unita said in an editorial.

Reagan seeking compromise on Saudi arms sale

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is checking congressional reaction to a compromise arms-sale package to Saudi Arabia that would drop 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles from the deal, sources have said.

Under terms of the proposal, the administration would also remove electronic upgrading equipment for F-15 fighter jets, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

That would leave the sale of 12 F-15s as replacement craft for fighters in the Saudi arsenal that require replacement through accident or old age.

The proposal is designed to prevent another congressional embarrassment for President Ronald Reagan, such as the one he suffered when he was forced last June to withdraw the Saudi package because of vehement opposition.

The decision to push ahead

with the missile compromise was made Monday at an inter-agency meeting at the White House, the sources said. They said Chief of Staff Howard Baker was the main proponent of the suggestion, wishing to guarantee acceptance of the proposal.

But deputy State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Tuesday that no final decision had been made on what proposal to submit to Congress, and that consultations were continuing with congressional opponents.

A bipartisan group of five senators sent a letter to Mr. Reagan 10 days ago warning him against proceeding with the sale. They accused Saudi Arabia of failing to cooperate enough with the United States in safeguarding the Gulf against Iranian attacks.

The senators also accused Saudi Arabia of funding the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Reagan administration, rejecting criticism that the sales pose a threat to Israel, is especially anxious to push through the deal now to bolster the Saudis' stand in the Gulf.

The Saudis have opened themselves to threats from Tehran through their support for Iraq, as well as cooperation with the United States in aerial police patrols over the Gulf to prevent Iranian mining activity.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy last week praised Saudi assistance in expanding surveillance beyond their air space, as well as their help in minesweeping activity in international waters. But he declined to go into details, saying that would compromise Saudi Arabia's position.

The Reagan administration is also seeking reaction to the sale proposal from pro-Israeli lobbyists in Washington, the sources

said. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has in the past rejected the Saudi deal, but there were indications Tuesday that a compromise could be worked out, the sources added.

However, they said AIPAC would insist that the F-15s only be supplied to the Saudis as replacements that would remain in the United States until needed.

The White House is seeking to notify Congress of the sale before the arrival on Oct. 18 of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, the brother of Saudi King Fahd. The prince, who commands the Saudi National Guard, is to hold talks with Vice President George Bush.

If no objections are raised within 30 days after the administration notifies Congress of the proposed sale, the deal will go through.

Tehran warns Australia to keep out of Gulf war

CANBERRA (R) — Iran warned Australia on Wednesday to keep out of the Gulf war.

Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Attari made the statement after Australia announced its support for the U.S. attack on an Iranian vessel in the Gulf.

Mr. Attari said: "Australia has no involvement in the Gulf and so should not become involved. I hope the Australian government takes a moderate position and so any further action won't be necessary on our part."

Iran might not take immediate retaliation against U.S. supporters, like Britain and France, but would seize any future opportunity to hit back, he told reporters.

"Of course we will react. If someone kills my brother, I must revenge that death... and so it is

with Iran," he said.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei has vowed revenge for the American attack.

The United States said the Iranian ship was laying mines. Iran said it was carrying food.

Australia's Acting Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said in a statement: "The laying of mines in waters in which the vessels of other states have rights of access or passage, and the failure to give any warning or notification, was a breach of international law."

He added: "The United States appeared to have acted in response to a direct threat to the safety and security of its ships and its crews. In the highly charged circumstances of the Gulf this was entirely legitimate behaviour."

Nakasone urges Khamenei to accept U.N. ceasefire

NEW YORK (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has urged Iranian President Ali Khamenei to accept a U.N. Security Council call for a ceasefire in its seven year war with Iraq, a Japanese official said.

The official said that during a meeting in New York between the two leaders, Mr. Khamenei

causing tension in the Gulf and called an American attack on an Iranian vessel off Bahrain on Monday a "dangerous incident."

The official, who declined to be identified, said the pair met before Mr. Khamenei addressed the General Assembly in a speech which warned the United States of retaliation for the attack.

Chad-Libya peace talks go ahead without Qadhafi

LUSAKA (R) — Five African presidents gathered in Zambia on Wednesday to try to end the border war between Libya and Chad but the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi stayed away.

With a ceasefire in force for the past 12 days in the disputed Aouzou Strip, only Chad's President Hissene Habre arrived for the special Organisation of African Unity (OAU) committee meeting on the conflict.

Col. Qadhafi, whose troops regained control of the strip last month after being driven out by Mr. Habre's forces, declined the invitation.

Western diplomats said his absence made success doubtful for the OAU's latest peace-making

efforts. "It's a pity," Zambia's acting foreign minister, Frederick Chomba, told Reuters. "We would have liked to have had both Qadhafi and Habre together."

The meeting was called by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, OAU chairman.

As Mr. Habre flew to Lusaka, N'Djamena Radio accused Libyan planes of again violating Chad's airspace, a frequently repeated charge since the OAU-sponsored truce was agreed on Sept. 11.

The Libyan News Agency JANA said Col. Qadhafi would be represented by Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azouzi Al Tahli.

South Sudanese urge peace talks with northern parties

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels and politicians from Southern Sudan said on Tuesday they wanted to expand the scope of their peace talks by involving northern parties, neighbouring governments and international organisations.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudanese African Parties, an alliance of six southern parties, were winding up a third round of talks in Nairobi on how to revive

direct peace negotiations with Khartoum. The SPLM's military wing has been fighting government troops in Southern Sudan since 1983 with the declared aim of redressing what it regards as an imbalance between the Muslim Arab north and the African south.

A communique, signed on Tuesday by the two sides and by the Kenyan government as witness, called on all Sudanese political forces to take part in talks.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:35	Programme Review
15:45	Cartoons and children programme
16:30	Children's programme
16:45	Children's Scientific Programme
17:15	Kids of Degrassi Street
17:45	Lone Greene
18:15	Arabic series
19:10	Health and Life (Arabic)
19:15	Local News reports
19:30	Programme review
20:00	Arabic series
20:40	Local contents programme
21:30	Arabic film
22:30	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Arabic film contd.
PROGRAMME TWO	
15:30	Rue Carnot
15:40	La ciné aux champs
15:50	News in French
16:15	French varieties
16:30	News in Hebrew
16:45	Varities
16:55	News in Arabic
17:10	Kate and Alice (Comedy)
17:30	Master Work
17:45	You Don't Have to Walk to Fly (play)
18:10	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Four Seasons"
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08:00	Morning Show
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08:05	Morning Show Contd.
08:10	Country Music
11:30	Hillville: The story of Motown
12:00	News Summary
12:05	News Music
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News in Hebrew
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Discovering Music
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Documentary
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	30-minute Theatre
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Seminar to address world economic crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day seminar will open at the Amman-based Arab Mining Company headquarters on Saturday to discuss joint Arab economic action in the face of the world economic recession and the international economic crisis.

The seminar, which has been organised by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), will discuss seven working papers prepared by Arab economic experts, university professors, and prominent intellectuals, according to an official announcement from the CAEU in Amman Wednesday.

The announcement said that Jordan's representative at the CAEU and Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply Rajai Masher will chair the meetings.

The seminar is designed to analyse the dimensions and cause

of the world economic crisis, the announcement said. It added that the delegates will also focus attention on forging a joint Arab economic stance which serve Arab aims and objectives.

A great number of participants representing economic organisations will take part in the seminar, in addition to the following Arab League institutions: the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances, the Arab Company for Livestock Development, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Industry, Agriculture and Trade, as well as Jordanian companies and institutions. These include the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Central Bank of Jordan, the Royal Scientific Society, and the Amman chamber of commerce and industry.

Preparations for celebration on Prophet's birthday begin

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed on Monday, Nov. 2, and ceremonies on the occasion will be organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, according to an official announcement.

A meeting was held in Amman on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, during which arrangements for the celebration were discussed.

The announcement said that the main ceremony will be held

at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City, other celebrations will be held in different parts of the country.

At the meeting attended by a higher committee on the celebrations, several subcommittees were appointed to take charge of these events. The committee said that several television and radio programmes and seminars will be organised on the occasion, which will be a public holiday.

Those attending the meeting included the ministry's under secretary, Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and senior aides.

Arab universities association announces upcoming meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Association of Arab Universities (AAU) will hold its next annual session in the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa in February, to be followed by the AAU's sixth general conference, which will deal with higher education in the Arab World from now until the year 2000.

This announcement was made by AAU President Mohammed Dughaim, who said that the AAU secretariat has entrusted a number of Arab experts to pre-

pare the main research papers to be submitted to the conference on higher education.

The AAU will hold shortly a workshop on informatics in the management of higher educational institutions in the Arab World, in cooperation with the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The workshop, which will be held at the University of Jordan, is scheduled to take place from Oct. 3 through 8.

Italian tour agents pave way for tourist groups

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Italian tour operators are currently in Jordan as part of a familiarisation programme designed to pave the way for organising visits by Italian tourist groups.

The Royal Jordanian, the nation's air carrier, together with the Plaza Hotel and Petra Tours, has organised the group's visit, as well as its tours of different archaeological and other sites of

interest in the country. The Italian visitors, who are considered leading tour agents in their country, will study the prospect of cooperating with the organisations of their programme in planning Italian tourist group visits to the Kingdom.

The tour operators are being taken on trips to the Dead Sea, Petra, Jerash, the Jordan valley, Ajloun, and Aqaba.

Wahbe praises resumption of Jordanian-Egyptian ties on occasion of third anniversary

By Lamis K. Andoni and Najwa Najjar Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Friday marks the third anniversary of Jordan's resumption of relations with Egypt — a step which was viewed by Arab and Western analysts as a prelude to the return of Egypt to the Arab fold.

Over the past three years, Jordanian and Egyptian relations have advanced rapidly in all spheres of bilateral cooperation, particularly political coordination in efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian question.

In fact, Jordanian-Egyptian coordination, according to observers, has reached an unprecedented level in the history of bilateral Arab relations, excluding the several brief unity experience which characterised inter-Arab relations in the 1950s and 1960s.

This closeness has strongly manifested itself in the 19 summits that took place between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and the 22 bilateral protocols and agreements, covering all fields, over the past three years.

In a press conference held on this occasion, Egypt's ambassador to Amman, Inhab Wahbe hailed Jordan's decision "as a highly appreciated and historical move." Mr. Wahbe said that, since then, both countries "have developed an identical position

on three essential Arab issues." He noted that the three issues include, efforts to convene an international peace conference, unequivocal support for Iraq in its war against Iran and for an immediate end to the seven-year conflict, and the restoration of Arab solidarity.

Jordan was the first country to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt, and, in doing so, sparked a debate among Arab governments and media. Critics of resumption of diplomatic ties with Cairo argued that the Jordanian step is a violation of the 1978 Baghdad Summit resolution which called for severing ties with any Arab government that signs a unilateral peace treaty with Israel.

But Jordan, and other Arab supporters of resumption of diplomatic ties, rejected this argument, pointing out that the Baghdad summit resolutions had left open for the individual Arab states the decision on the stand they would adopt towards Egypt.

The main Jordanian argument was that the step was crucial to regain Arab solidarity, taking into consideration the political weight of Egypt.

The debate over Arab relations with Egypt was one of the most important issues discussed during the First Arab Strategic Conference, which concluded here last week. The participants, who included Egyptian officials, as well

as scholars, agreed that Egypt's return to the Arab fold was "extremely relevant to rectify the prevailing balance of power in the region.... which paralyses the potential of the Arab World to confront the external and internal threats."

During the three-day conference, two views clearly emerged concerning means to achieve a complete and effective return of Egypt to the Arab fold. The first opinion, held mainly by opponents of the Camp David Treaty argued that Egypt be the party "to take steps forward by moving away from the policies dictated by its peace treaty with Israel." The second view was held by supporters of the Camp David Treaty, as well as those who vehemently oppose the agreement but believe that it is the responsibility of Arab countries to approach Cairo and to encourage Egypt to resume its role in the Arab League.

Proponents of this opinion, however, differ on the point of the basic premises, in accordance with their respective stands on Camp David. Supporters of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty argue that Egypt has "maintained its practical support for the Arab causes despite its peace with Israel." Opponents of the treaty, on the other hand, insisted that "the isolation of Egypt was not effective to realise the Arab objective of returning Cairo to the Arab fold."

Agricultural marketing firm signs contracts for importation of apples

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) has concluded contracts with exporters in Turkey, France, and Lebanon to import apples, and the first consignment will be available in the local markets early next month at reasonable prices for consumers.

JAMPCO Director-General, Ghazi Abu Hassan, said that the company will import sufficient quantities of apples to fill the Jordanian market. He added that the importation will take place during October, after which imports of apples will stop for three months to resume in February.

JAMPCO, after consulting with the authorities in charge of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom, has drawn up a programme for importing apples in October, June, July, August, and up to the middle of September,

the face of foreign competition, and also encourages the local farmers to plant apple trees, whose fruit is in great demand in the local market and abroad.

In previous years, Jordan imported nearly 40,000 tonnes of apples annually, at the total cost of JD 7 million. Mr. Abu Hassan said that apples could be grown in Jordan in great quantities, with each dunum yielding nearly three tonnes; therefore, the demand for apples could be filled by planting 8,000 dunums of apple trees. The great demand for apples in Jordan has prompted farmers to plant more than 3,000 dunums with apple trees so far.

The JAMPCO programme of rationalising importation of apples has reduced the total amount paid for imported apples from JD 7 million to JD 1 million, Mr. Abu Hassan noted.

JAMPCO, which now has a mandate to import and export vegetables and fruits of all kinds, has concluded contracts for the apples on a barter basis.

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100,000 jobs now open to Jordanians — Haj Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan announced Wednesday that Jordanian job seekers now have more than 100,000 jobs to choose from, thanks to the recently-adopted strict measures designed to stem the employment of foreign workers in the Kingdom.

Mr. Haj Hassan said, in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordanians are now required for work in agriculture, construction, and the hotel business, among other fields. He urged all job seekers to apply for jobs through the newly-opened employment office in Amman.

These jobs can earn job seekers more than they can dream to get from clerical and other white-

collar jobs, the minister said. Mr. Haj Hassan added that the new office, which is located at the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions building in Shmeisani will open for business on Oct. 1.

In another move to help find work for unemployed Jordanians, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has asked employers and businesses to start advertising in the local press about available jobs to inform job-

seeking Jordanian readers about them, so as to help stem the problem of unemployment in the country. Mr. Haj Hassan noted.

The ministry last month issued a strict warning to all employers and businesses to give priority in employment to Jordanians. It also warned that strict measures will be taken against employers found giving jobs to non-Jordanians without work permits.

Non-Jordanians can no longer be employed as salesmen and saleswomen in stores or as attendants at petrol stations and car washes. The ministry's list also includes other job categories forbidden to non-Jordanians, such as teaching, secretarial work, accountancy, and clerical jobs.

Amman Chamber of Industry to mark 25 years of development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry will hold celebrations under royal patronage on Saturday to mark its silver jubilee. The celebrations will include a ceremony for inaugurating the monument on the Second Circle of Jabal Amman, which the chamber had set up in commemoration of His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday, and another ceremony of opening the new and enlarged exhibition of national products.

The chamber, he added, gives proper attention to all laws and regulations concerning the industrial sector. For example, it has assisted in drawing up the new Companies Law, a draft law on supply, and another on encouraging investment in Jordan.

At present, the chamber is involved in working out a general law on industry, which would organise and promote this sector, as well as offer facilities, protection, and assistance to industrial concerns, Mr. Jaber noted.

The chamber has also been conducting economic studies, organising gatherings for industrialists and merchants, and taking all other measures to help support the national economy. Mr. Jaber noted. The Amman Chamber of Industry, the director said, has played a leading role in planning and executing Jordan's industrial development through the national development plans.

The chamber, he added, gives proper attention to all laws and regulations concerning the industrial sector. For example, it has assisted in drawing up the new Companies Law, a draft law on supply, and another on encouraging investment in Jordan.

In addition, he said, the chamber takes part in the meetings of all Jordanian organisations concerned with economic and social development, like the Industrial Development Bank, the Amman Financial Market, the Social Security Corporation, the Vocational Training Corporation, the Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation, the Institute of Public Administration, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the International Labour Organisation, and the Arab Labour Organisation.

Mr. Jaber stressed that the Amman Chamber of Industry, realises the importance of promoting exports which would bring in revenues, thereby enabling an expansion of businesses and the absorption of more workers in industry. For this reason, the chamber has enlarged its permanent exhibition of Jordanian products, which now displays the maximum number of items that are on sale in Jordan and abroad.

Red Cross, Red Crescent officials discuss services provided in region

AMMAN (Petra) — Red Cross services, in general, and those offered to the Arabs living under Israeli occupation were among topics discussed here Wednesday by visiting director of operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Michael Conners, and the president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Ahmad Abu Qoura.

Mr. Conners told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the meeting, that the talks also covered ICRC operations in the Gulf region in view of the ongoing Gulf conflict, particularly services

offered to the prisoners of war in Iraq and Iran.

Mr. Conners, who arrived here Tuesday after a tour of the Gulf region and Saudi Arabia, said that he discussed with Dr. Abu Qoura and heads of Red Crescent societies in the Arab Gulf states the escalation of the Gulf war, as well as efforts by humanitarian organisations and the United Nations to end the war.

The ICRC has permanent offices in Iraq and Iran and conducts visits to prisoners of war on a regular basis in implementation of the Geneva conventions concerning the treatment of the pris-

oners of war, the Red Cross director said.

Mr. Conners, who concludes his current visit to Jordan Wednesday, has been briefed on general JNRCS activities in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, it was announced here that the sixth meeting of the International Islamic Red Crescent Committee will open in Amman on Monday. Delegates from Libya, Sudan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Qatar, Mali, Turkey, and Cameroon will take part in the conference, according to a JNRCS spokesman.

Voter enthusiasm seen lacking for ID cards

(Continued from page 1)

eligible voter's apparent lack of interest in obtaining the identity cards to several factors:

— The absence of any positive indication that the next elections will take place soon. Seen in the light of the fact that the last elections were held some 21 years ago, the absence of a definite sign of impending elections contributes to a significant portion of the electorate being disinterested in acquiring the cards.

— The whole electorate apparently needs reorientation as far as their democratic rights are concerned," commented a seasoned observer.

— The absence of a wider awareness campaign informing the electorate of the importance of acquiring the identity card. Apart from sporadic follow-up announcements made by the Ministry of Interior, no advertisements urging voters to obtain their cards have been made.

— The bureaucratic process involved in the issuance of the cards. Some people questioned the wisdom of having the centres process the applications. "It would have been easier for the centres to forward their respective voter lists, which were collected in May, to the Interior Ministry which in turn could go ahead with issuing cards," said an aspirant to a seat in Parliament and who preferred to remain anonymous.

Furthermore, the applying process, which involves submitting two photographs of each voter with self-filled application forms, is another factor discouraging voters, said an official in charge of a centre in an Amman suburb.

"Why should anyone spend money for photographs to obtain a card?" asked an elderly man who was carrying a bunch of applications at the centre. "I have spent JD 10 to get the photographs of seven of my grown-up children who are eligible to vote and my two wives. But not every-

one will be interested in spending such an amount for the right to vote during these difficult times," he added.

Adding to the problems related to photographs is the absence of photographers or studios in remote areas. Also, many villagers do not like the idea of their women or daughters being photographed by a "stranger," let alone having their pictures displayed in ID cards.

However, some "amateur" photographers appear to be emerging from the shadows. Most of them take photographs for free; not because they want to perfect their art through a social service but because they are paid to do so by potential candidates. In the course of inquiries, this reporter came up with at least half a dozen Parliament aspirants who have bought their own equipment and employed photographers in addition to professional letterwriters to fill up the applications.

"Elections will take place someday. Why not work for today and for tomorrow?" asked a hopeful candidate in justifying his keenness on hiring people to take photos of his constituents and write applications.

"Candidates are more enthusiastic than voters," observed an official at an Amman centre. "Without active encouragement and incentive from candidate very few people will be turning up to apply for voter cards," he said. He said about 90 per cent of the several hundred applications he received were brought in by people working for candidates or candidates themselves.

The Ministry of Interior is keeping a tight lid on all information related to the number of applications received. But, according to some highly-placed sources, Amman Governorate, which has an eligible electorate of 304,708, leads the field with nearly 35,000 applications for voter cards so far. It is followed by Balqa Governorate with 17,000.

applications (total voters 84,143), Irbid Governorate with 15,500 (257,140), Mafrq Governorate with 14,500 (18,817), Zarqa Governorate with 11,600 (95,697), Karak Governorate with 6,600 (57,093), Ma'an Governorate with 2,200 (25,865) and Tafleeh Governorate with 1,500 (18,114).

A random survey taken by the Jordan Times among officials and voters found mixed feelings over the concept behind issuing the voter cards.

Opponents of the card argue that Jordanians have enough of official documents to show their identity, including passports, the family book, driving licences and civil registration cards. "This procedure is only another means of self-identification. I have so many documents to show who I am," said a frustrated potential voter.

Those in favour of the card described it as "the maximum of political civilisation" and a key element in guaranteeing organised elections.

Other interviewees called on the government to make it mandatory for every eligible voter to attain a card, regardless of whether or not he or she wanted to participate in future elections.

Mr. Adnan Mirza, director of the CRD, said the card would make the whole process of voting "much easier and more organised."

Some, including a former Cabinet member, see the card as a means of securing individual freedom in choosing their candidates. Regardless of the divided views of the voter card, it remains a manifestation of the undergoing development and progress of the electoral process which will enhance and institutionalise democratic practices in Jordan.

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Jordan to restore diplomatic relations with Libya

(Continued from page 1)

Libya in February 1984, also reflected the Kingdom's true adherence to pan-Arab principles in which Jordan always believed in and for which the Kingdom offered sacrifices.

Petra said the decision, which came as Jordan is preparing to host an extraordinary Arab summit in Amman on Nov. 8, was also part of the Kingdom's endeavours to ensure a successful beginning to a new era of inter-Arab relations.

The decision was announced after a Cabinet meeting which was partly chaired by the King. The meeting also reviewed preparations for holding the Nov. 8 summit in Amman.

During the meeting, the King spoke of the importance of the summit, "which comes at a time when the Arab Nation is going through numerous ordeals and difficulties and as the Arab masses are looking for means of protecting the Arab Order and

seeking Arab solidarity within a unified framework based on strong joint Arab action," Petra said.

During Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, the King also expressed his appreciation of and satisfaction with the performance of the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Petra said.

The King described as an honour for Jordan the Arab League Council's decision this week to convene the extraordinary summit in Amman to discuss the Iran-Iraq war and the threats the conflict posed to the Arab Nation. "The summit will be a new chapter and starting point for collective Arab action in the service of the Arab Nation and its major causes," Petra quoted the King as saying.

The agency said the decision to restore relations with Libya took effect as of Thursday, and measures to implement the decision were to begin immediately.

Mr. Rifai expressed the government's pride in the King's decision to restore relations with Libya and described it as an expression of His Majesty's "noble feelings and keenness in safeguarding the unity of the Arab ranks and serving Arab causes and of the distinguished position of His Majesty."

Britain closes Iran's office

(Continued from page 1)

subject under U.N. auspices. This has been resisted by Israel, but an internal debate on the question is under way that some believe could lead to a shift.

Virtually the whole world now accepted the conference idea, Mr. Howe said.

He said it would provide a framework for negotiations and would not be a trick or a trap and would not impose solutions or have the right to veto agreements reached between the parties.

"It need not be feared by any man of goodwill," he said. France told the U.N. on Wednesday that its naval presence in the Gulf was deliberately limited and it would not participate in any multinational actions that could lead to East-West confrontation.

Ships and U.S. targets brace for Iran's 'revenge'

(Continued from page 1)

off the Iran Ajr, a former commercial ship-turned-mine-layer, to their homeland. The Iranians, described as "demoniacs" by the Pentagon, were being held aboard navy ships in the Gulf.

Gulf-based shipping officials said the transfer most likely would be made under auspices of the Red Crescent through the Sultanate of Oman.

Three other Iranians were killed and two remained missing, U.S. officials said, in Monday's attack by helicopters equipped with infra-red sighting devices to observe activity in darkness.

Navy ships and helicopters were searching on Wednesday for the mines already in the water. There was no official word here on how many were recovered, but shipping executives, speaking on condition they not be named, said the navy had found eight of the moored, contact-type explosives.

American embassies in the region were on special alert as Tehran vowed to avenge the attack.

The Iranian cabinet met to discuss Monday's attack and Tehran Radio reported it had stressed "the need for general preparedness of the nation to confront this American plot."

Regional shipping sources said Iranian warships were highly active, challenging ships to see if they were carrying war material for Iraq.

"The airwaves are busy with challenges," one said. "The Iranians are much more active than normal."

The sources, quoted by Reuters, merchant ships were sailing close to the Arabian side of the waterway for fear of an attack, especially from the fast gunboats operated by Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

"We are nervous," said one. Mr. Weinberger was due in the region on Thursday. His movements will be kept secret but he will visit Saudi Arabia, Bahrain

and Egypt and is also expected to go aboard navy ships in the Gulf. The U.S. navy declared a small area of the Gulf, where the Iran Ajr was said to have dropped mines, a danger zone.

An American warship was towing the badly-damaged Iranian ship towards international waters off Bahrain.

Another ship, the British tanker Gentle Breeze, badly damaged by an Iranian gunboat attack, also on Monday, also arrived in Bahrain under tow on Wednesday.

Senior U.S. naval officers have maintained for weeks that the Iranians were sowing mines in the Gulf, but the attack on the Iran Ajr provided the first visible proof. The officers say they know where there are other minefields.

Washington officials called the attack on the 58-metre Iran Ajr "defensive" on grounds that the laying of mines in a busy shipping channel was a hostile act.

On the eve of his departure for the Gulf, Mr. Weinberger said U.S. forces had found three of the mines which were laid by the Iran Ajr.

Mr. Weinberger also said there were indications the old-fashioned contact mines were made recently in Iran.

"We have found three of them and we believe we should have the others very shortly," he said.

Asked about the mines, Mr. Weinberger said: "They were the standard World War II-type. Very recent manufacture—as far as we know, manufactured in Iran."

Strongly challenging Mr. Khamenei's claim that the Iran Ajr was only carrying food, Mr. Weinberger said detained crewmen from the ship had admitted laying mines and disclosed where they had been sown.

"I don't really know how much more conclusive we can get," he said.

"It was a regular navy ship, a landing craft. And it was stuffed with mines. And the idea that it was a merchant ship carrying foodstuffs is about as nonsensical as most of the other Iranian statements over the past few years."

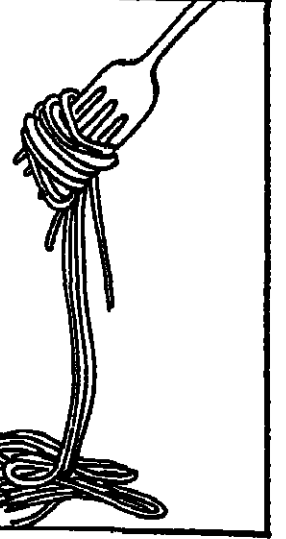
In his press conference, Mr. Khamenei called the attack on the Iranian vessel "one of the biggest mistakes" the U.S. government has ever made.

"This incident has taken the war in the Persian Gulf to a new stage," he said.

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Telling days ahead

IRAN'S lopsided interpretation of Resolution 598 already caused pessimism among the members of the United Nations and the suspicion that Iran is anything but ready and willing to accept that resolution, and that, for all intents and purposes, it is simply playing for time. Iran's last word on the resolution, as expressed by its president, Sayyid Ali Khamenei, to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 22 was a tantamount to a rejection of the Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire in the Gulf war as a first step that could lead to a negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues between Iraq and Iran. Now, the focus of world attention is on the permanent members of the Security Council to find out for certain whether the consensus achieved among them heretofore, and expressed in Resolution 598, could be repeated. It is now up to the U.N. Security Council, especially the permanent members of the Council, to act in concert and unanimity in response to Iran's rejection of official acceptance of the ceasefire resolution. There is already an escalation in the tensions in the Gulf, and there is only one direction left for the situation there to develop into unless it is arrested by a unified and strong reaction by the Security Council.

With the U.S. and its allies already drafting a resolution that would impose an arms embargo on Iran, and the Soviet Union expressing willingness to back such an arms embargo, the stage is set for a repetition of the unprecedented consensus that the permanent members of the Security Council achieved on July 20. Should this prove to be true, it will manifest exemplary statesmanship by the two superpowers, as well as provide a living testimony that the emerging détente between them is truly on terra firma. This is not to suggest that there are no longer geopolitical considerations in the Gulf which divide the two superpowers; rather, it would suggest that nuclear arms deals between them takes priority over all other considerations and objectives, at least for the time being. The Washington agreement in principle between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, last week, to scrap all short and intermediate-range nuclear missiles from their respective arsenals may be at risk, should they differ drastically on how to proceed in dealing with the Gulf conflict. The stakes for both countries are immense, and there is nothing that they would not do to avoid undoing what they painstakingly achieved last week. The real test of the superpowers' détente will take place in the coming few days, when the consultations among the permanent members of the Security Council proceed with the purpose of designing a follow-up resolution envisioning the application of sanctions on the belligerent state which does not abide by the ceasefire resolution.

The escalation in the hostilities between Iran and the U.S. adds a new dimension to the conflict, the repercussions of which have yet to unfold. This may tax the unanimity among the members of the Security Council and jeopardize their united stand in the face of Iranian aggression. Yet, it could also act as a catalyst to speed up the international enforcement action against Iran, in order to put an effective end to the war. The next few days should determine with clarity the course that the U.N. Security Council will take in the face of mounting tension in the Gulf.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King returns home

KING Hussein has returned to Amman following visits to the United Kingdom and Switzerland where he held talks on the Middle East question and the Iran-Iraq war. The King's return marks the beginning of a new flurry of diplomatic activity for handling the two problems at a summit meeting to be attended by heads of Arab states as decided on by the recent foreign ministers meeting in Tunis. Amman together with the rest of the Arab capitals are making ready for the coming meeting which is hoped to offer solutions to the problems of the Arab World. Amman has been striving to unify Arab ranks and re-establish Arab solidarity and the chance is here now to discuss this issue when the Arab leaders meet in this capital. The coming few weeks that precede summit will witness additional efforts by King Hussein and Jordan at large in order to ensure a successful outcome. There will be consultations and contacts among the Arab countries for coordinating their stands with regard to the issues on the agenda, and there will be further efforts to overcome differences that impede the summit's success. King Hussein has never stopped his efforts to end these differences and never has he spared any moment without exploring means of reconciling Arab leaders. His main concern is to unify Arab efforts to deal with the Gulf conflict and the Arab-Israeli issue for which he had been seeking solutions and enlisting the help of different world nations to achieve that goal.

Al Dustour: A recognition of Jordan's role

BY deciding to hold an Arab summit meeting in Amman, the Arab League has thus given good credit to Jordan for its pan-Arab efforts and its relentless and diligent work aimed at re-unifying Arab ranks. The decision served as a recognition of King Hussein's current endeavours in the Arab and international arenas to serve Arab causes and was like a medal of distinguished value awarded to this country which has been striving to end differences among Arab countries and rally the Arabs for confronting their common enemies. The decision to hold the coming summit in Amman has drawn wide-scale welcome and support from all corners of the Arab World — a clear manifestation of the Arab countries' recognition of Jordan's role and distinguished status within the Arab community. Entrusting this country with handling a summit meeting is tantamount to recognising Jordan's role as a bridge linking different parts of the Arab World. In the international arena, Jordan has been able to win support for its call for an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions. We take pride in Jordan's continued pan-Arab role and the efforts of King Hussein and his major diplomatic successes here and abroad.

Sawt Al Shaab: King's successful mission

KING Hussein's successful talks with British and Swiss leaders during his most recent tour abroad have given further momentum to the Arab drive to end Arab-Israeli conflict. These talks have also enhanced Arab-European dialogue and strengthened the Arab image and Jordan's diplomatic presence in Europe. King Hussein's efforts in European nations have drawn welcome and deep satisfaction on the Arab and European countries. King Hussein has succeeded, not only in winning support for Arab causes but also in changing the distorted image in the minds of the Europeans as painted by Israel. King Hussein who is intent on offering service to the Arab Nation brought up the question of the Gulf war calling for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to end the conflict between Iran and Iraq. King Hussein also continued his drive for the implementation of council Resolution 242 for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and establishing lasting peace. The results of the King's tour and his talks with European leaders will continue to bear fruit and will have its beneficial impact on the coming Arab summit meeting.

Gorbachev battles range of obstacles in bid for reform

By Tony Barber
Reuters

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is battling against a range of obstacles — from a slump in trade with the West to popular concern over price and wage reforms — that are blocking his drive for economic change.

Two-and-a-half years into his rule, Gorbachev has charted a programme of meeting the Soviet people's demand for housing, food and high-quality consumer goods and transforming the economy into a force fully competitive on world markets.

Western economists and businessmen in Moscow say his determination is clear, but he faces many difficulties — some inherited from his Kremlin predecessors and some arising from the ambitious scope of his reform course.

"In some ways, it is like when a Western leader ... starts trying to reform an economy in the doldrums. Unexpected problems crop up, and things seem to get worse before they get better," one economist said.

Perhaps the hardest area to assess is the extent to which Gorbachev's reforms are meeting resistance, or sheer apathy, within the vast state and Communist Party bureaucracy and from the

public at large.

The weekly Moscow News provided startling confirmation of popular discontent last week when it described how bus drivers in Chekhov, a town south of Moscow, staged a brief strike in protest at housing conditions and stiff new wage regulations.

One driver, explaining how his pay depended on fulfilling all his work schedules, said: "How can they be fulfilled when most of our buses look like tanks after battle? Their average age is that of my grandmother."

A similar scheme which penalises workers for making shoddy goods caused protests last year in a truck plant in the city of Erezhev. The newspaper Izvestia implied aggrieved workers felt the problem lay in external factors such as delays in supplies.

Conversations with Muscovites make clear many people are concerned at the prospect of price rises for basic goods and services that have been kept artificially low for decades by billions of roubles (dollars) in government subsidies.

Reformist economists have also talked of closing thousands of inefficient state enterprises and relocating large numbers of workers with an enthusiasm that seems not to strike a chord with people used to day-to-day job security.

The authorities say they are planning to introduce radical price changes from 1990 but, in what economists consider a concession that could weaken the impact of the reform, have pledged also to increase wages, pensions and social benefits.

Gorbachev's industrial reforms, outlined this summer, are intended to make firms more profit-conscious and independent by encouraging them to finance themselves and by releasing them from the need to meet strict

annual state production targets. But Western economists said it appeared conservatives had managed to limit the decentralising scope of the measures. For example, the state remains free under a new law on enterprises to dictate what share of a firm's output it should receive.

In addition, central state control over the allocation of industrial supplies is to continue, albeit mixed with a system of direct trade between enterprises. Moscow-based economic ministries

are therefore still in well-entrenched positions.

Gorbachev has assailed the conservatism of the ministries but has not gone as far as Nikita Khrushchev, who abolished most of them in 1957. This step was a factor in Khrushchev's fall in 1964, and the ministries were soon restored.

One of Gorbachev's most vexing problems that, while a far-reaching reform may take years to implement in the heavily centralised Soviet system, he is under some pressure to show the party and people that he can produce results now.

However, the accumulated burdens of the 1964-82 rule of the late Leonid Brezhnev — which Gorbachev frequently blames for the monumental tasks now facing the Kremlin leadership — mean that a "quick fix" solution is hardly in sight.

The engineering sector, on which Gorbachev pins his hopes for modernisation, has proved slow to overcome its legacy of stagnation. In the first eight months of 1987, only 61 per cent of engineering firms fulfilled their contracts.

A senior Soviet scientist, Yevgeny Velikhov, summed up the problem this summer by saying Soviet technological capacity could expand fivefold by 1995 but the only result would be

to stop Moscow falling further behind the world.

Some factors hindering Gorbachev's plans have been outside his control, such as a slump in world oil prices and a weak dollar that have slashed billions of dollars from Moscow's hard currency earnings.

The trade squeeze has not only cut vital imports of Western steel equipment and chemicals but has meant some measures aimed by reformist Soviet economists, such as making the rouble convertible, are unworkable at present.

Nor have many Western firms taken up Soviet offers to form joint industrial ventures. Some companies attracted to the idea want to pin down the Soviet approach to issues such as control of labour and repatriation of profits, businessmen said.

Agriculture is one area where the Soviet economy is looking healthier, with a harvest of 210 million tonnes in 1986 and a similar yield predicted this year. But even harvests of this size must be topped up with large Western grain imports.

Such expenses, coupled with defence expenditures and Gorbachev's commitment to improving the economy on all fronts, from energy and heavy industry to consumer goods, mean that the state's resources are as tightly stretched as ever.



Could the Olympics provoke a new Korean war?

By Barry Renfrew
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The deadlock over North Korea's demands to co-host the 1988 Seoul Olympics has contributed to concern that the games could provoke an armed confrontation or even a new Korean war.

Most analysts agree there is very little chance of all-out war, though they say it cannot be ruled out because of the intense hatred between the two Koreas stemming from their devastating civil war in 1950-53.

But they claim a North Korean military or terrorist act is likely if its demands are not met, as seems increasingly probable.

South Korea and the United States are bolstering their defences to discourage any possibility of a North Korean attack against the games, which start Sept. 17, 1988.

U.S. defence officials have

agreed to step up stockpiling of munitions to ensure a high level of military readiness, and say they may send more warships and troops to help guard the south during the games. Some 41,000 American troops already are in South Korea under a mutual defence pact.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage says there is little doubt that North Korea is capable of attacking the south.

"There is a possibility and a probability that North Korea will make an unprovoked armed attack upon South Korea designed to disrupt the Olympic Games," he told reporters in Seoul on Sept. 12.

"The (South) Korean and U.S. forces are fully poised to combat North Korean troops if they thrust into the south," Armitage said. "Our commitment to the security of the Olympics is strong."

The South Korean government-funded Korea Development Institute said in a recent report: "Pyongyang will try to disrupt the games by any means to justify its unprecedented demand to co-host the games."

The scars and memories of the civil war help fuel the bitter animosity that continues to divide the Korean peninsula.

North Korea has been accused with launching attacks against the south, including a 1983 attempt in Rangoon to wipe out the entire South Korea cabinet that left four ministers and 16 other people dead, and a bombing at Seoul's Kimpo airport in 1986 during the Asian Games that killed five people.

"The North Korean threat has been there since the Korea war," Seoul Olympic organising committee head Park Seh-Jik told the Associated Press.

On Friday, a U.S. military offi-

cial accused North Korea of trying to suggest there was increased tension on the Korean peninsula in advance of the Olympics.

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral William T. Pendly was responding to a recent North Korean charge that members of the United Nations command had committed some 44,000 military provocations and criminal acts in the previous year. The command represents the 16 nations that fought with South Korea in the Korean war.

"The vast majority of the people of the world, who are looking forward to the Olympic Games in 1988 and wish for peace and stability on the peninsula, will not be deceived," Pendly said in a letter to the North Koreans.

South Korea sees hosting the Olympics as a major victory over North Korea. Seoul officials say winning the right to host the games proves their country's su-

periority.

"The Olympics will mark a critical turning point for Seoul to achieve permanent superiority over Pyongyang," the Korea Development Institute said.

South Korea and the International Olympic Committee are anxious to avoid any move by North Korea to organise a boycott of the games.

The IOC and South Korea have ruled out the north completely co-hosting the games, but have offered Pyongyang several sports if it drops its demand and takes part in the Seoul games.

Concern about North Korea's intentions has been increased by reports that it has told its people the Olympics will be held in their country. Vast stadiums and other athletic facilities are under construction in Pyongyang.

The United States has urged North Korea to ally 'China' and the Soviet Union to restrain Pyongyang. U.S. officials say

Moscow and Beijing want to participate in the games.

Analysts are concerned that North Korea's 75-year-old leader, Kim Il Sung, may be tempted to attack the south because of his desire to reunite the peninsula in his lifetime.

The north, which frequently has asserted it will take over the south, also may feel the need to move before the balance of power tilts in favour of Seoul, analysts say.

South Korea's recent enormous economic success is rapidly making Seoul more powerful, although Pyongyang still has numerical military superiority, they say.

A successful Olympics unmarred by any attacks could, on the other hand, be a positive sign for the peninsula and help create hope that the two countries finally may be able to improve their relations.

Aquino safe, but problems likely to get worse

By Phillip Melchior
Reuters

MANILA — Bruised and battered by political turmoil, Corason Aquino remains secure as president of the Philippines but political analysts say her problems are likely to get worse.

The past five weeks have put the 54-year-old president through a political wringer.

"But what we've learned is that she is tougher than we thought and she can take more punishment than many expected," a senior Western diplomat said.

In a month of unending crisis Aquino has faced:

— The most serious attempted military coup of her 18 months in office.

— A crippling show of industrial muscle from the militant left.

— The dropping under military and business pressure of two of her most trusted advisers.

— The political murder last weekend of a prominent leftist leader which has revived pressure

for martial law.

Through all this, the swelling Communist insurgency has provided a continuing backdrop.

The grim litany prompted commentator Amanda Doronila to declare in the respected Manila Chronicle newspaper on Tuesday: "The nation today is closer to civil war than it was in 1972."

That was when exiled former President Marcos entrenched his own rule by launching almost a decade of martial law.

But diplomats and political analysts polled by Reuters on Tuesday say they did not expect the country to tip over the edge.

"When you look out over the long-term there is real reason for gut unease," one independent analyst said. "But the woman has a remarkable capacity to pull herself out of a hole and when you look back, she has always ridden through these crises."

"She's not teetering," U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said on television this week, again underlining the massive public

and private support Washington has given Aquino since the August 28 rebellion almost toppled her administration.

Few analysts will completely discount the possibility of assassination or a successful coup ending the presidency that began in February 1986 in a blaze of post-Marcos optimism.

They say, however, that Monday's reshuffle of top military posts has consolidated key army officers around her.

"She can ride out the crises and the half-hearted rebellions. She's clearly determined to govern, and she's certainly not going to resign," a senior diplomat said.

"Take away the hype and the publicity and the sniping, and in terms of practical politics, there simply is no operational alternative," he added.

Never easy, Aquino's job appears only to be getting more difficult, fulfilling the prophecy made by her assassinated husband Benigno that succeeding Marcos would be a political

deathtrap.

Analysts say the concessions she made in her cabinet line-up by dropping liberal-leaning advisers have estranged the left, left her heavily constrained by the right, and reduced further her ability to carry through fundamental reforms.

Her administration's struggle to rebuild the country's economy in part by attracting foreign investment has "been destroyed by all the coups," one analyst said.

The result will be growing support for the Communist New People's Army and its guerrilla war, and a growing impression of a powerless government.

On top of everything, Aquino's massive personal popularity which once swept all before it appears to be eroding and she is increasingly accused of being distant.

"She's just not enough of an actress," a diplomat said. "People still want to love her, but she's just not as cuddly as they thought she would be."

RJ hijack suspect held

(Continued from page 1)

beaten, kicked and, in one instance, stabbed in the back.

Both Younis' arms were in casts because his wrists were fractured after he was arrested by the U.S. authorities on Sept. 13 in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea. His attorney told reporters that the injuries were not self-inflicted.

Undercover FBI agents promised a major drug deal to lure and then capture Younis, a 28-year-old Shi'ite Muslim.

He was placed aboard a U.S. navy vessel and flown on a military aircraft last Thursday to Washington, where he has been held in custody.

During the hearing, FBI Agent John Lipka related passenger accounts of the hijacking, including how five people armed with assault rifles and grenades stormed the plane and took it on an odyssey throughout the Mediterranean.

Lipka said Younis threatened to kill the passengers one-by-one if his demands were not met.

Prosecutors then showed a videotape in court of a man they identified as Younis reading a statement to the press at Beirut airport at the end of the hijacking.

"We are not terrorists, killers or criminals, nor are we shedders

of blood," he said in the statement.

The dramatic 18-minute videotape ended when the hijackers blew up the plane in a hail of gunfire after the passengers and crew were released.

Lawyer Frank Carter told reporters before and after Tuesday's hearing that his client suffered the broken wrists following his arrest. Younis was "interrogated three times a day" during a "trip around the Mediterranean for five days" while aboard a U.S. navy vessel, Carter said.

Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten said FBI agents involved in the arrest have just returned to the United States and would be interviewed.

"Based on what we know, it appears that it was accidental," said one Justice Department official.

He said Younis was questioned by FBI agents after being taken aboard the navy vessels, but he rejected Carter's characterisation of three-times-a-day interrogations. Korten said Younis was aboard the navy vessel from Sunday until Wednesday, when it reached the Saratoga.

"The U.S. navy vessel did not steam in circles. Younis was arrested in one end of the Mediterranean, and the Saratoga was at the other end," Korten said.

Israelis reject PLO talks

(Continued from page 1)

to PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Despite the attack, in which he suffered a broken arm and a head wound, Mr. Nusseibeh told Reuters many Palestinians had called on him and expressed support for his action.

"Everyone I know has come, I've had a lot of support," he said.

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, a leading moderate on the West Bank, said: "No one can doubt the nationalism and sincerity of Sari Nusseibeh."

But other, more hardline Palestinians questioned the value of talking to Israeli rightists.

Elias Zannanir, editor of the Al Awlad English-language weekly, said many Palestinians believed the affair had more to do with rivalries between Israel's Labour and Likud parties than with peace.

"Only three hours after the Amirav-Palestinian document was signed, (Defence Minister Yitzhak) Rabin ordered Hussein arrested and the bombing of the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp (in southern Lebanon)," he said.

Israeli and Palestinian peace activists say that — despite denials from Mr. Shamir's office — the right-wing prime minister knew of the meetings between

Mr. Amirav and the PLO supporters.

"He (Shamir) never agreed or disagreed with this initiative, but he knew about it," peace activist David Ish-Shalom told a news conference.

He produced no documentary evidence but said Israel's Shin Bet agency, which reports to the prime minister, knew of the contacts as did Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu who met Mr. Shamir in Bucharest last month.

Mr. Amirav denied that Mr. Shamir was aware of his contacts with the PLO sympathisers.

Mr. Shamir told Herut party supporters on Tuesday: "There will never be negotiations with the PLO. We agreed that we will work for political activity, that we will act for direct negotiations with our neighbours according to the principles of Camp David."

Mr. Nusseibeh, in his first interview since masked Palestinian students beat him up on Monday, told Israeli armed forces radio that the pro-PLO activists who met Mr. Amirav believed Mr. Shamir knew of the contacts.

"We were given or led to believe that the prime minister was apprised of these developments," he said.

WHO calls for smallpox commitment to rout AIDS

WITH the same energy and commitment with which it eradicated smallpox, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is now committed to the more urgent, complex and difficult task of global AIDS control, according to Dr. Jonathan Mann, director of the WHO Special Programme on AIDS.

In an exclusive report in People, the development magazine published by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Dr. Mann said that WHO believed the spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) could be stopped, even though a vaccine was not yet available.

AIDS was a health problem of truly global proportions. By the middle of 1987, 118 countries had reported some 52,600 cases of the disease to WHO.

"But we know that this is only the tip of the iceberg since it depicts the epidemiological status of the HIV infection as it existed several years ago," he observed.

A global problem of this magnitude demanded a global response and WHO had a constitutional responsibility to direct and co-ordinate the global struggle against AIDS. It regarded education as the key to AIDS prevention and control as ultimately, it was people's responsible behaviour that would stop the spread of the virus.

WHO understood that AIDS control would require a sustained, long-term commitment. The disease had emerged rapidly but would not be rapidly controlled. Prevention and control required both strong national pro-

grammes and international leadership, co-ordination and co-operation, he added.

The main tasks of the Special Programme on AIDS, he explained, were to support forcefully the development of national AIDS programmes. WHO was already working with more than 50 developing countries, mostly in Africa and Latin America, to help plan and implement such programmes.

Uganda, one of the first countries to develop a five-year plan, had given the highest priority to controlling the AIDS epidemic. In October, 1986, the Ministry of Health had established the National Committee for the Prevention of AIDS and an initial visit by a team of WHO consultants the following January resulted in a short-term plan and immediate assistance.

In February this year, three WHO consultants had helped the Ministry to draft a detailed five-year medium-term plan for AIDS prevention and control. The plan defined the programme's responsibilities, structure, staffing and required resources for 1987-1991.

Continuing, Dr. Mann said that a WHO consultant had been assigned to Uganda starting in late March, 1987 to assist the Ministry in co-ordinating national activities, including external assistance, required to implement the plan. More WHO staff had been identified and recruited to assist with specific tasks.

The overall aim of the AIDS programme was to reduce the incidence of HIV infection and its associated morbidity in Uganda and various objectives had been



AIDS is often called "slim" disease because of victims' severe weight loss (Rife photo)

formulated. These aimed at assessing the current status of the epidemic, monitoring the progression of the epidemic through surveillance and preventing HIV infection by reducing sexual transmission, cutting down transmission through blood transfu-

sion and through other contact with blood and blood products, such as injections, and reducing mother-to-child transmission.

Other objectives, he said, included improving clinical management of AIDS patients, as well as the diagnostic capabilities

for HIV infection and the development and co-ordination of research activities.

The AIDS programme was being supervised by the office of the Minister of Health, while AIDS policy formulation was the responsibility of the National AIDS committee. The programme was being evaluated regularly in collaboration with WHO.

Dr. Mann emphasised that it was important that AIDS control programmes were not developed in isolation. Integration with national primary health care strategies and it was essential that optimal use was made of the existing infrastructure for health development, including the educational systems, communication channels, nongovernmental organisations and the private sector.

An additional role for WHO had emerged in the important field of mobilising resources — and in this connection Uganda had offered valuable experience. In May, 1987, WHO collaborated with the government to conduct a donors' conference to examine the five-year plan and identify donors for necessary external support. The response, he said, was rapid and positive. More than \$6 million had been identified to cover the first year and pledges for additional future resources received. Similar conferences were planned for Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

Dr. Mann pointed out that material and child health care (MCH) and family planning programmes had a critical role to play in national AIDS control strategies. HIV was primarily transmitted sexually and heter-

osexual transmission was growing in industrialised countries. Sex education, leading to changes in sexual behaviour was the action that would eventually check the spread of the HIV epidemic.

The target groups for Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning services were the sexually active and those coming forward for advice and services. Such programmes were particularly important for the prevention of transmission from mother to child. The implications both in terms of staff responsibilities and of preparing staff for these tasks, were far-reaching.

Even under the best of scenarios, Dr. Mann said, the magnitude of the AIDS pandemic would increase over the next few years. It would also increasingly affect mothers and children. MCH-family planning programmes therefore would become more closely involved in combating the problem. This would have undoubtedly implications for the services involved and additional resources would be needed. The resulting changes and strengthening, however, would also have other important health benefits, such as a reduction of other sexually transmitted or blood-borne diseases.

Dr. Mann concluded: "Hopefully, the threat posed by, and attention given to AIDS, might have some positive effects in itself. For instance, it could in many situations force a breakthrough for much-needed sex education and for the possibility to prepare young women and men for responsible sexuality" — People.

Randa Habib's

Mobility is the word

SOME departments in Jordan are not publicised enough although their work is vital. I am thinking here particularly of the Civil Defence Department, which has proved its efficiency in the past years.

The department's rapid reaction whenever there was an accident has saved hundreds of lives in recent years. The statistics are clear: While in 1985, with 1,972 accidents, 113 people died; in 1986 the number of accidents was higher, 2,688, but with only 81 deaths. If this department was equipped with mobile care units, that many people called for, the number of deaths in car accidents would have been considerably less.

The Civil Defence Department has established centres along the country's main roads, at 50 kilometres intervals, in order to offer quick services to accident victims. But still, a wounded person in a car accident, say near Kwaishid — along the eastern highway — would have to be driven to the nearest hospital, either in Mafraq or Zarqa, which could be as far as 240 kilometres.

Mobile care units in this case would be ideal. The patient could be treated in the car and receive more medical care than in a simple ambulance.

Finally I wish to point out that because of the Civil Defence, many sick people were able to reach private or public hospitals in time, after falling to alert an ambulance from those hospitals.

Human rights or trade rights?

By Bimal Ghosh

"WE DO not necessarily see that we have an obligation to treat trade from countries that abuse their citizens' rights in the same way as we treat trade from countries that allow their workers the benefit which can result from their export efforts..." Speaking in Geneva on June 17, Mr. William Brock, the U.S. Labour Secretary, was urging the International Labour Conference to take steps linking trade and workers' rights.

In a parallel move, earlier in June, Mr. Ray Marshall, the former U.S. labour secretary, and several congressional labour leaders and human rights activists founded in Washington, a new organisation — the International Labour Rights Education and Research Fund — to promote trade curbs against countries which gain a competitive advantage through denying workers' rights. Meanwhile the U.S. trade negotiators have tabled a motion in GATT — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — to set up a working party to look at a more explicit recognition of workers' rights in the new GATT rules.

These moves come at a time when the new U.S. trade Bill — which contains a provision to curb commerce with countries that don't recognise workers' rights — has reached the final stages of congressional deliberations before its submission to President Reagan.

The current labour protests sweeping South Korea have kindled new emotions about workers' rights in the context of trade. The New York-based International League for Human Rights and some trade unionists have urged the U.S. government to remind South Korea and its other trading partners that they must comply with internationally recognised labour rights.

Are these genuine concerns for human and workers' rights? Or, are they a disguised attempt at protecting jobs and markets? Or a mixture of both? These doubts are not confined to Third World countries. A number of Washington legislators see the workers' rights provision in the new trade Bill as "protectionism in the guise of humanitarianism."

Protecting workers' rights is hardly a debatable issue. But the

issue is often brought up in the context of competitive gains. Abuse of workers' rights is condemned because it gives the newly industrialising and other developing countries a competitive edge in international markets. This strengthens the suspicion that commercial interests rather than human considerations are the real motivation behind all this fuss over workers' rights.

Inter-country wage differentials are also a reflection of real differences in national resource endowments. The labour-surplus countries of South and South-East Asia or Latin America should have a legitimate comparative advantage over, for example, Japan or North America in the use of manpower except possibly for industries which are highly skill-intensive.

It is true that in many Third World countries there are clear cases where the absence of workers' basic rights — lack of freedom of association and of the right to organise and bargain collectively, the use of children etc. — is depressing wages and labour conditions. But it is wrong to approach the worker rights issue from this end. Regardless of their effects on wages or competitive position, these abuses must be stopped and rights upheld. This is the essence of the issue.

If raising commercial interests confuses the worker rights issue, the interference of political considerations does nothing for its credibility. Under the 1984 U.S. trade measure — which made workers' rights a consideration in granting preferential trade benefits — the president was given the power to waive actions against worker rights violations and in most cases he uses that power.

We must also be conscious of the effectiveness of trade as a lever for changing labour or social policies. Jealous to safeguard their prerogatives in domestic matters, most Third World countries — including those like Singapore, South Korea or Taiwan which depend heavily on their export incomes — are sensitive and suspicious of any such external pressure. The situation becomes worse and may provoke retaliations in various forms if unilateral action is taken in defining unfair labour practices and withholding trade benefits, as envisaged in the U.S. trade Bill.

America's taste for ice cream inspires new boom for vanilla

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

HUNT VALLEY, Maryland — "Things are humming these days in vanilla corner," says Gregg Hart of McCormick & Co. Inc., a major producer of spices and flavourings.

He points out a bank of seven large, green, stainless-steel tanks along one wall of the company's extract plant. A murky, dark-brown liquid splashes behind the small, porthole-like windows on the front of each tank.

"The tanks function much like home coffee makers," Hart explains. "What we have here is a mixture of crushed vanilla beans, alcohol and water that will eventually be transformed into vanilla extract. Our tanks operate most of the year."

Feeding huge appetite

Importers and manufacturers have been working overtime to satisfy America's growing appetite for real vanilla. The chemical structure of the vanilla bean is so complex that not all the components that contribute to its distinct flavour and aroma have yet been identified.

The irresistible flavouring comes from a small, yellowish-green orchid, the only one of thousands of orchid species that produces edible fruit. More than 90 per cent of the world's vanilla comes from Madagascar and the Comoro Islands, in the Indian Ocean, and from Indonesia.

U.S. vanilla-bean imports last year totalled 1,100 tons valued at more than \$38.5 million, compared with 817 tons valued at \$47.5 million in 1985.

Chat Nielsen Jr., president of Nielsen-Massey Vanillas, a manufacturer in Lake Forest, Ill., attributes the surge in imports in recent years to the explosive

growth of the gourmet ice cream industry, which uses only real vanilla. "Sales of artificially flavoured vanilla products have been flat," he says.

Vanilla accounted for almost a third of the record 924 million gallons of ice cream produced in the United States last year. "We give them all these flavours, and they still prefer vanilla," says Becky Davenport of the International Ice Cream Association. "There are still a lot of purists out there."

But vanilla does a lot more than sell ice cream. It flavours baked goods and colas, adds a special taste to some liquors. "One of our more offbeat customers is a big tobacco company," says Nielsen. "I think they scent some of their pipe mixtures with vanilla."

Vanilla, meet chocolate

Vanilla even finds its way into many products flavoured by its major taste competitor, chocolate. The happy marriage of vanilla and chocolate was consummated by the Aztecs of Mexico, who concocted a drink that blended vanilla pods and cocoa beans long before the first Europeans arrived in the New World. Sixteenth-century Spanish conquistadores returned samples of vanilla to the Old World, where the flavouring eventually became a hit on its own.

England's Queen Elizabeth I doted on vanilla. Other 17th-century Europeans valued it for more than its taste, using the bean to treat indigestion, headaches, and "anemic and exhausted young women."

Thomas Jefferson is credited with beginning America's love affair with vanilla. He was so taken with its fragrance and flavour that he brought a supply of



vanilla beans from France in 1879, when he returned to Philadelphia, one of the new nation's temporary capitals. The town was soon abuzz with stories of his exotic desserts.

Europeans hoping to capitalise on the vanilla craze smuggled cuttings out of Mexico in the 18th century, but with little success. Despite the best efforts of horticulturists, the orchids stubbornly refused to bear fruit. Dark

rumours of a curse by Montezuma haunted the plant.

A Belgian botanist, studying the plants in the wild, punctured the myth by observing that the flowers had to be individually pollinated to bear fruit. This was usually accomplished by a small bee found only in Mexico. That country, once an important vanilla exporter, today ships out relatively small quantities of the beans.

More than half the world's vanilla comes from the island of Madagascar. When ripe, the fragrant seed pods are spread out to cure under the hot sun of Antalaha (left). To guard against theft of the valuable plant, some growers prick their initials in the pods (right). Besides Madagascar, the two other chief vanilla-growers are Indonesia and the Comoros Islands.

The real breakthrough occurred in 1841, when a former slave from the French island of Reunion, in the Indian Ocean, perfected a method of hand-pollinating the vanilla-producing orchids. Plantations soon sprang up on Madagascar and other nearby islands.

Hand pollination of thousands of blooms, which open over a two-month period, starts a process that makes vanilla one of the

world's most labour-intensive agricultural products. Curing alone takes three to six months, beginning with a scalding bath, followed by a daily ritual of sunning and "sweating," and then considerable time in a curing shed.

The 4-to-12-inch pods are so valuable in some regions of Madagascar that growers prick their initials in them to thwart their theft by "vanilla rustlers."

Forbes, Fortune differ over list of the richest

By Peter Coy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Who is the world's richest person? It depends on which business magazine you read.

Fortune and Forbes, two American business weeklies, are squaring off with rival lists of the world's billionaires that bear little resemblance to each other.

Forbes claims the world's richest person is Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, a Japanese landlord who it says is worth \$20 billion.

Fortune gives top honours to the "free-spending sultan of oil," Sultan Mudda Hassanah Bolkiyah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah of Brunei, who it says is worth \$25 billion.

The magazines can't even agree on who has bragging rights in the business of naming billionaires.

Fortune says Forbes rushed its list into print this week to beat Fortune to the newsstand by a week. Forbes admits it, but notes that it has been printing its own list of the 400 richest Americans since 1982.

Fortune got in the first punches when it heard of the Forbes list and issued a press release Saturday, promoting its Oct. 12 cover story. Forbes' news release on its Oct. 5 cover story came out a day later.

Calculating the wealth of billionaires seems to be more art

than science, judging from the discrepancies between the two magazines' calculations. Forbes' list is heavy with Japanese, while Fortune's is strong on Arab royalty and North Americans.

Tsutsumi, No. 1 on the Forbes list, is the 53-year-old head of Seibu railway group, Japan's biggest and richest landlord. The empire consists of railways, more than 30 hotels, about 25 golf courses, ski resorts and other land.

Fortune, however, gives Tsutsumi credit for just \$2.5 billion. Its own No. 1, the 41-year-old Sultan of Brunei, owns practically everything in the country of Brunei on the island of Borneo. Forbes' cover story includes only foreign billionaires, but the magazine issued a news release Monday with the names of the top 49 Americans on its annual Forbes 400 list, which will be in its Oct. 26 issue.

Only three individuals or families make the top 10 on both magazines' lists of combined U.S. and foreign billionaires: Albert, Paul and Ralph Reichmann, Canadian real estate, newspaper and oil magnates; Kenneth Roy Thomson, a Canadian with interests in news media and real estate; and Sam Moore Walton, the discount retailing king from Bentonville, Arkansas.

Here is Forbes magazine's list of the richest individuals or families in the world (those having

assets of more than \$2 billion) outside the United States, including nationality and source of wealth.

More than \$10 billion

Japan — Talkichiro Mori, property development.
— Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, transportation, hotels.

More than \$5 billion

Japan — Yohachiro Iwasaki, logging, property.
— Shigeru Kobayashi, real estate.
— Haruhiko Yoshimoto, real estate.
— West Germany and The Netherlands — Breaminkmeyer family, retailing.

Sweden — Hans and Gad Rausing, liquid packaging.
Canada — Albert, Paul and Ralph Reichmann, real estate.
— Kenneth Roy Thomson, news media, oil.

More than \$2 billion

Japan — Eitaro Itoyama, property.
— Konoosuke Matsushita, electronics.
— Seiji Matsuo, trading,

real estate.
— Yoneichi Otani, hotels.
— Keizo Saji, liquor distribution.

Taiwan — Rinji Shino, real estate.
— Tsai Wan-Lin, insurance, construction.
— Y.C. Wang, plastics.
Saudi Arabia — Al Rajhi family, money changing.

Germany — Karl Friedrich Flick, finance.
— Henkel family, consumer products.
— Reinhard Mohn, publishing.
— Rudolph August Oetker and family, food, brewing.
— Quandt family, autos, industry.

— Wilhelm and August Jr. von Finck, real estate, banking.
— Von Oppenheim family, banking.
— Prince Johannes von thurn und tax, land investments.
United Kingdom — Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, property.

Italy — Giovanni Agnelli, autos.
Switzerland — Thomas and Stephen Schmidheiny, industry.
France — Schlumberger family, oil services.
Colombia — Pablo Escobar Gaviria, cocaine.
— Ochoa Brothers, cocaine.

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Mediterranean Games

Arabs win most golds in boxing events

Moutawakel considering retirement

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Arab and Yugoslav boxers won all 12 finals in the Mediterranean Games on Tuesday, the most exciting day so far of the lacklustre two-week sports festival.

Syrian boxers won three gold medals to the delight of a capacity crowd screaming "Syria, Syria." Fans, waving huge national flags, invaded the floor around the ring to applaud their heroes. Mohammed Hadad, Hamed Habouni and Mayez Khanji.

Syria's boxing honours brought to eight its gold medal tally and took it to sixth place in the medals table, ahead of all other Arab countries competing in the games.

Morocco's Handasi Radwan and Asheq Abdul-Haq won their bouts, while Algeria took two boxing golds and Tunisia one.

Yugoslav boxers lifted four boxing titles to raise to 13 their country's gold medal tally.

In the Syrian capital Damascus, life came to a virtual standstill when the home soccer team held Greece to a 1-1 draw after extra time in a semi-final tie in Aleppo.

The Syrians qualified for Thursday's final when they won the penalty shootout 3-2, thanks to two heroic saves by goalkeeper Ahmed Eid.

In the other semi-final, played in Latakia, France edged past Turkey 1-0 to qualify for the final.

The eight-nation soccer tournament has been a low key affair due to the absence of the Italians, Yugoslavs and Egyptians.

The French, by far the most impressive side, are mainly drawn from second division clubs.

In a surprise announcement, Olympic hurdles champion Nawal El Moutawakel said she is "tired and low-spirited" and may retire rather than let down the Moroccan people, a Syrian newspaper reported Wednesday.

"At the beginning, the 400 metre hurdles were easy for me. Now they seem like mountains."

she told the state-run daily Tishreen, which interviewed her at the 18-nation Mediterranean Games.

"I am not ready psychologically... therefore I have decided and thought of retiring, because the Moroccan people have hopes in me and I can't fulfill them, and I would be very sad if I let them down," she added.

El-Moutawakel, now a university student, said she has "exams coming up... I will devote the rest of the year to my studies."

She burst into fame at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles with a surprise gold medal in the 400-metre hurdles in a time of 54.61 seconds.

"At L.A. I was an ordinary person, and went into the race with ordinary feelings. I got the gold medal, every sportsman's dream, but I was blank. The

victory was a shock."

She underwent knee surgery in 1985 and again in 1986, then my trainer died in a plane crash.

"I stopped sports because his loss was very difficult for me," she added.

"I resumed training in 1987, and improved a lot in spite of my injured knee and painful muscles. I managed to make it to eighth best in the world, and was physically, but not mentally ready."

Despite a disappointing performance at last month's World Track Championship in Rome, El-Moutawakel won the 400-metre hurdles at the Mediterranean Games this week, breaking her old meet record in a time of 56.27, then flew back to the United States.

"I am thinking of retiring after the Mediterranean Games," she said. "There is another (Moroccan) champion now who can replace me. Fatima Aouam. She was a world champion in the two mile race, and I expect her to win at the Olympics."

Tyson not interested in bout with Spinks

NEW YORK (R) — Jim Jacobs, co-manager of Mike Tyson, dismissed as "complete nonsense" on Tuesday a \$10-million offer for the undisputed world heavyweight champion to fight Michael Spinks next year.

Jacobs told Reuters he would ignore the offer made 24 hours earlier by Spinks's manager and promoter Butch Lewis for the unbeaten 21-year-old Tyson to defend all three of his world titles against Spinks next May.

"It's complete nonsense," said Jacobs. "I'm not going to respond to it. I'm just going to forget all about it."

"Spinks and Lewis had a con-

tract to fight Tyson last May 30 which they walked away from," Jacobs added, referring to the bout planned for the two as part of promoter Don King's heavyweight Unification Series.

"We went to court and tried to force Spinks to fight Tyson but were unsuccessful. Now Mike (Tyson) has commitments for at least a year ahead and we are going to honour them."

Lewis's offer guaranteed Tyson and Spinks \$10 million each plus a percentage of revenues. Lewis's spokesman Rock Newman said, confirming there had been no response from Jacobs.

Johnson, Fuwa win easily

TOKYO (AP) — Hiroki Fuwa set a Japanese record of 10.33 seconds in the 100-metre dash Wednesday, but couldn't beat world champion Ben Johnson of Canada in a one-day international track and field meet before 53,000 spectators.

Johnson's 10.29 was well below his world record of 9.83, but he told reporters, "I think it's not a bad time in my hard schedule. This meet is the seventh since the world championship in Rome in August and the 46th race since January this year. So I am a bit tired."

Fuwa's time broke a 20-year-old Japan record of 10.34 set by Hideo Iijima.

World record holder Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union won the pole vault, clearing 5.90 metres on his first try in Tokyo's National Stadium, site of the 1964 Olympics.

Trying to break his world mark of 6.03 metres the 23-year-old Bubka failed in three tries at 6.05 metres (19 feet, 10 1/4 inches).

Poland's Marian Kolasa was second with 5.60 metres.

Bubka said, "since the world championships, I have had no time to practice but I was in top shape in Rome so I thought I could continue to do better here but failed."

Brian Diemer of the United States sprinted in the last 300 metres and won the men's 3,000-metre steeplechase, edging Joshua Kipkemboi of Kenya, who led most of the race.



Ben Johnson



Stefan Edberg

Edberg beats Flur

LOS ANGELES (R) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg easily advanced to the second round of the \$315,000 Los Angeles Grand Prix tennis tournament on Tuesday with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over American qualifier Marc Flur.

Second-seeded American Brad Gilbert also advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 win over his unseeded countryman Todd Witsken.

But fourth seed Scott Davis of the United States was upset by unheralded South African Gary Muller 7-6, 6-2.

Edberg began sluggishly against Flur, a player he had never before faced, and struggled to hold his opening service game.

Both players held serve easily after that until the eighth game when the Swede broke Flur as the American missed a backhand.

Edberg served out the set 6-3 and after that was in full control, winning the second set easily by 6-2. Edberg, who served and volleyed with conviction, took the

match on a backhand return error by Flur.

"It's always hard to play after a Grand Slam tournament," said Edberg, who was beaten by compatriot Mats Wilander in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open.

"It's harder to get pumped up," Edberg said. "It took a couple of games to get into it and then it was alright."

Muller, ranked 64, used his big left-handed serve to outplay an off-form Davis, ranked 20, and easily dominated his opponent after winning the first set in a clear-cut tiebreaker by seven points to one.

Michael Chang, the American who at 15 became the youngest player to win a round at the U.S. Open two weeks ago, could not repeat that feat in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Chang was beaten by third seeded American, David Pate, 6-3, 7-6.

W. Germany beats Greece 3-0 in Olympic soccer

OFFENBACH, West Germany (AP) — West Germany defeated Greece 3-0 in a European Group A Olympic qualifying match Tuesday.

Scorers were Frank Mill of Borussia Dortmund in the 16th minute, Wolfram Wuttke of Kaiserslautern in the 64th, and Mill again in the 87th.

This was West Germany's first win in the group, after losing its opening match against Romania 0-1.

Mills's first goal came after he took a header shot from Wolf-

gang Funkel of Bayer Uerdingen at five metres out and kicked in an unstoppable shot.

The West Germans played an aggressive game throughout the first half keeping the Greek team on the defensive and at their end of the field.

Starting the second half the Greeks stepped up the pace, but it was not enough to stop Wuttke who made it 2-0 with a shot into the left corner of the goal from 18 metres out after a solo charge from midfield.

Penalty saves Everton

LONDON (R) — A controversial 87th minute Wayne Clarke penalty saved the blushes of English champions Everton after a battling League Cup performance by lowly Rotherham.

Rotherham, 19th in Division Three, twice hit back from behind in the second round first leg tie.

There seemed little danger as Everton's midfielder Trevor Steven chased a Graeme Sharp pass to the byline under challenge from Rotherham goalkeeper Kelham O'Hanlan. But Steven fell and referee Gerald Ashby pointed straight to the spot for Clarke to step up gratefully to score.

Everton opened the scoring through a curling low drive from Ian Snodin after 18 minutes. Four minutes later left-back Martin Scott drove home a stunning 20 metre free kick off the underside of the crossbar.

Everton restored their lead through new signing Ian Wilson, after 51 minutes. But tenacious Rotherham were back on terms after 77 minutes, when Nigel Pepper soared to head home a left-wing cross from substitute Daral Pugh.

Portsmouth, newly promoted to the first division, next down 3-1 at second division Swindon. Derby, also new to the First Division, lost 1-0 at Third Division Southend and Bournemouth of the Second Division beat Southampton of the first 1-0 at home.

Once proud Wolverhampton, now in the Fourth Division, had something to cheer, winning 2-1 at second division Manchester City. Another Fourth Division side, Rochdale, drew 1-1 at home to Wimbledon of the first in Spain Spanish radio and

television reports said Barcelona coach Terry Venables, blamed for his club's disastrous start to the Spanish League season, was likely to be sacked on Wednesday, but a club spokesman said a decision would not be announced until later.

"It will not be official until after an executive board meeting," he told Reuters.

Venables, 44, discussed the club's crisis with executives on Wednesday. The board was to meet later and hold a news conference at 1830 GMT.

The arrival in Barcelona of former Atletico Madrid coach Luis Aragones, regarded as a possible successor to Venables, fuelled speculation that the English coach would not complete his fourth season with the Catalans.

Club President Jose Luis Nunez told reporters on Tuesday Venables was unable to train Barcelona, who have lost three of their first four league games.

"A coach, in two years, goes from being the best to being useless... this happened not only with Venables, but with all the club's coaches," he said.

Eriksson leads Ivory Coast rally

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — World Champion Kenneth Eriksson took the lead over Bjorn Waldegard after a rain-soaked first leg of the Ivory Coast Safari Rally.

Only 29 of the 43 starters arrived in Yamoussoukro, the halfway point of the 1249.24 kilometre first leg. Kenyans Shekhar Mehta and Mike Kirkland finished the leg in third and fourth positions respectively. Fifth place is held by West German Erwin Weber.

The event was marred by the deaths of Toyota assistant team manager Henry Liddon and three other men, killed early Wednesday when their light plane crashed on takeoff from Yamoussoukro.

Rally organisers said the cause of the crash was not known, nor whether heavy seasonal tropical rain storms contributed.

The 1,396.22 kilometre second leg was slated to get under way at 7 p.m. (1900 GMT) Wednesday.

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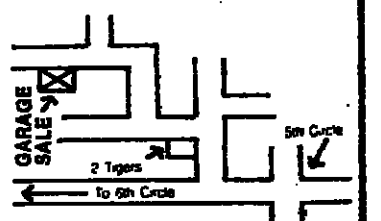
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FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FIRST RACE 3.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Farhan Fathi Oudh	El Bane	Owner		56
2- Ibrahim Mohammad Maray	R. Monr	Owner		56
3- Tash El Nahr	Ghazali	Owner	A. Amarah	54.5
4- Abdulah Hussein	Ibtisam	Owner	Fawaz	54.5
5- Shakir Farhan	A. Narel	Owner	Mahmoud	54.5
6- Khalaf Yousef Rwaiddan	Ahmady	Owner	Mwatah	53
7- Thami Hazza El Hadeed	Laly	Owner		50
8- Sath Moazy Adwan	S. El Ghor	Owner	Yousef	50
9- Samir Khalil Haddadin	Dhawy	Owner	A. Jabir	50
10- Saif Ghazy A. Jabir	M. Sail	Owner	George	50
11- Ata Mazin Abbady	Rihanah	Owner	Rasheed	50
12- A. El Hafez Awwad	Hamedeh	Owner	Yousef	48.5
13- Salmaan Hisham Nabulsi	M. Salmaan	Owner		48.5
14- Hisham Mohammad	K. Bassam	Owner	Ahmad	48.5
15- Ziad T. Rahhal	Sinan	Owner		50

THIRD RACE 4.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ihsan Abdullah Mohrbash	Nassar	Owner		58
2- Shuhadi Atwah Sitrny	Haman	Owner	Sulman	56
3- El Dawesh El Bakheet	Moghadah	Owner	Mahmoud	54.5
4- A. Jabir and Bakheet	Imad	Owner	A. Amarah	53
5- Farhan Fathi Oudh	S. El Arab	Owner		53
6- Salmaan Sulman Khawlah	Talia	Owner	Eiad	52
7- Sakir Fahad Lawanshi	Ghannam	Owner	Fawaz	50
8- Mahmoud Mossalim Fayad	Nimr	Owner	Ahmad	50
9- Sakhy Aboud Nalle	Sail Road	Owner	Rasheed	50
10- Ahmad Said Ihwal	El Monab	Owner	Yousef	48.5
11- Mohammad A. El Jalil	Milad	Owner	George	48.5
12- Mohammad Ahmad Hosamy	Otwah	Owner		54.5

FIFTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mihal El Falez	El Zahr	Nimr	Yousef	58
2- Nimr El Hmoud	El Talak	Mahmoud	A. Jagheet	57
3- Nimr El Hmoud	Aghadeer	Mahmoud	Kasim	50.5
4- Nimr El Hmoud	Hattab	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	50
5- Khalil Haddadin	Dhwan	Owner	Eiad	56
6- Khalil Haddadin	H. Maen	Owner	A. Jabir	53
7- Saif El Din El Iji	Alam	Owner		55
8- Samy Haddadin	Waheed	George	George	55
9- Kamal Wasil Bsharat	H. El Roman	Khair Eldin	Rasheed	50
10- Mohammad Yousef A. Sweilim Rowan		Owner		48.5

SECOND RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Aly Fareed El Saad	J. El Saad	Khair Eldin	Rasheed	56
2- Aly Fareed El Saad	Saad Aly	Owner	Elmon Yousef	50
3- Faisal Awwad El Falez	Nasmh	Owner	George	54.5
4- Nimr El Hmoud	Sahary	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	51.5
5- Nimr El Hmoud	Borkan	Mahmoud		50
6- Nimr El Hmoud	B. Rabadan	Mahmoud	A. Jagheet	48.5
7- Fawaz Ameri Shalan	Ahd	Mohsin	Kasim	50
8- Nawel Awwad Shalan	Ibshir	Mohsin	Eiad	50
9- Mayam Ibrahim Bsharat	Mashhour	Khair Eldin		50
10- Najla Wasil Bsharat	M. Dina	Khair Eldin		48.5
11- Ibrahim Hany Bsharat	Ajdal	Khair Eldin		50

FOURTH RACE 5.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ibrahim Hany Bsharat	Shallal	Khair Eldin		60
2- Faisal Awwad El Falez	El Hanool	Owner	Saad	58.5
3- Yousef Mohammad Awwad	Gnareeb	Owner		56
4- Ibrahim Hraish	Waly	Owner		56
5- Mihal El Falez	Normas	Nimr	Yousef	55
6- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stabile	Azzih	Abbas	Fawaz	54.5
7- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stabile	Mashaallah	Abbas		53
8- Samy Haddadin	Jarh	Owner	George	53
9- Mohammad Ibrahim Nay	Fain	Owner	Dallalah	51.5
10- Kamal Wasil Bsharat	Outomak	Khair Eldin	Rasheed	50
11- Nimr El Hmoud	Midan	Mahmoud	Mahmoud	50
12- Nimr El Hmoud	El Ghool	Mahmoud	Kasim	50

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Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

NO MERCY



Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

OFF BEAT



Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

TOM BOY

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6345/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3180/90	Canadian dollar
	1.8275/85	West German marks
	2.0565/75	Dutch guilders
	1.5145/55	Swiss francs
	37.90/93	Belgian francs
	6.0875/0925	French francs
	1319/1320	Italian lira
	144.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.4100/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6775/6825	Norwegian crowns
	7.0200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	460.50/461.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices here retreated from their midsession highs in quiet afternoon business as Wall Street's opening gains on Wednesday gave way to mixed, undecided trading.

Dealers said Tuesday's record points advance on Wall Street sent the FTSE 100 index up 20.7 to 2,356.9 just after the 0900 GMT official opening. But lack of followthrough left the index only 11.2 points higher at 2,347.4 by 1408 GMT, its lowest level on the day.

Oil shares were higher, reflecting the heavy overspill from the advance in the shares on Wall Street. Dealers noted other shares with U.S. address quotations also moved ahead.

Late afternoon trading was closely linked to developments on Wall Street with the FTSE 100 index tracking the Dow Jones industrial average almost step for step, dealers said.

By 1427 GMT the FTSE was up 14.6 at 2,350.8. Fundamentals underlying the U.K. market remain strong, dealers said, with the recent spate of encouraging economic data giving participants' hopes of another sharp rally before the year end.

Some analysts are forecasting that the FTSE 100 index could push through 2,500 points by the end of the year as investors buy on the prospect of good returns in a stable U.K. economy.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1987

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have an opportunity to connect with people who can give you some ideas. Cooperate with others as much as possible today, but don't depend on them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): You can be helped by doing some volunteer community work. Great business contacts can be made in this way as well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Plan your activities more wisely and get better results. Be more cooperative with a co-worker and speed up production.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Try to be more modern in your thinking and your appearance. Get in touch with some friends and plan a new summer for the weekend.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22): Get your house in shape and add more color and art to it. Enter into a home tonight and dress nicely, but not elaborately.

LEO (Jul. 23 to Aug. 23): A few friends may get a group project flowing much more smoothly. Spend the evening with someone you have much respect for.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23): Set up a business with a group of people who are interested in a new idea. A happy love life is indicated, so love principles.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23): Keep a healthy perspective about going after your goals — don't rob Peter to pay Paul. Keep a reign on your emotions and your temper.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21): Privately work out a plan which can bring you rapid success, with some hard work. Show more affection for your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Enjoy the aid of close friends to work out a difficult problem. Be more understanding of others and things will go smoothly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): If you display your abilities, you'll have more opportunities to capitalize on them. Have more confidence in yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): If you want a new friend to go along with you, it is important to explain them in detail. A short trip can bring you many benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): If you show a little energy and enthusiasm about life, your motto will be: "I am a winner." A short trip can bring you many benefits.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY: He or she will be adept at handling career matters which require precision, a neat touch, and the ability to finish a project once it's started. Your progeny will get along very well with people, so he or she should choose a career which deals with people with large groups. A happy love life is indicated, so love principles.

"The Stars Impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
© 1987, McNaughton Synd.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1987

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You'll be wise to go along with your mate's wishes this morning. Forciveness will bring good results early, but not later.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Clear up any problems which have been disturbing your happiness this morning. Prepare for a social and romantic evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): You can advance more quickly this morning by maintaining a more progressive attitude. Finish a discussion with someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): A new contact has the right answer for a problem you've been having, so listen. Form an alliance with this person which is mutually profitable.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): This can be a very lucrative day if you keep your eyes wide open to new opportunities which are virtually surrounding your business life.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY: He or she will be a very happy child and be quite obedient and detail-oriented. Your progeny will have a propensity for forming partnerships which can be very rewarding, and he will be determined to achieve his or her goals. Be sure to teach your child to be open-minded and to listen to new ideas. Great success is indicated.

"The Stars Impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21): You'll be wise to go along with your mate's wishes this morning. Forciveness will bring good results early, but not later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Clear up any problems which have been disturbing your happiness this morning. Prepare for a social and romantic evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): You can advance more quickly this morning by maintaining a more progressive attitude. Finish a discussion with someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): A new contact has the right answer for a problem you've been having, so listen. Form an alliance with this person which is mutually profitable.

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"The Stars Impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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Head of European Parliament pushes new farming policies

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States and Europe can no longer get rid of farm surpluses by shipping them to the Third World, the president of the European Parliament said Wednesday.

"And good riddance to it — no countries will ever develop properly that way..." Lord Plumb said in a speech to the Commodity Club, a business organization.

"In the minds of many people surpluses and shortages are directly linked and there is widespread simplistic belief that surpluses can simply be 'shipped south' to solve the problems of hunger and malnutrition. The complexities of the real situation need to be explored and publicized," he noted.

He said it should be more widely known that Third World governments tax their farmers too much and offer prices too low to encourage them to produce. High taxes and low prices have caused increased dependence on imported food, he added.

The United States and the Europeans would be foolish to try to solve their farm trade problems without making it a priority to protect the Third World farmer, he said.

Lord Plumb suggested that the farm situation in the United States and Western Europe is so similar that the common element could guarantee solution of their problems.

He noted that both Europe and America support their farmers by a system based on prices so high that they have over-stimulated supply while demand has remained stagnant or even fallen.

Both systems have hit budgets badly and benefitted larger farmers more than smaller ones, he said, but despite these apparently favourable policies farm communities are in severe decline on both continents.

"We are losing touch with our countryside and our common rural heritage," he added.

Meanwhile, ministers from key European Community (EC) farming states on Tuesday de-

manded major changes in plans to stop the growth in EC agricultural spending.

However, diplomatic sources said all 12 ministers recognised that with a budget deficit of \$7 billion forecast for next year, new cuts were necessary to bring the cost of farmers' subsidies under control.

The Community has been driven to the brink of bankruptcy by guaranteeing its farmers prices well above world levels, no matter how much they produce.

So the EC's executive commission has proposed setting production limits for major crops and telling farmers that they would be penalised with lower prices if they grew too much.

Diplomats said that at Tuesday's meeting in Brussels, the West German, French and Irish ministers rejected the idea of changing guaranteed prices in the middle of a season.

"The farmer must know what is going to happen during the crop year," Minister Michael O'Kennedy was quoted saying by Irish sources.

Diplomats said Belgian and Luxembourg ministers also expressed concern that the commission, in pursuing spending cuts, was not paying sufficient attention to a need to maintain farmers' incomes.

They quoted Belgian Minister Paul De Keersmaecker as saying that the Community risked achieving budget stability at the expense of social stability.

A few countries backed the commission's outline plan. British Minister John Macgregor told journalists his main concern was that some sectors might be excluded.

Britain insists that unless farm spending is brought under control, it will not provide new sources of finance for the EC at the next summit meeting in Copenhagen in December.

EC agricultural spending has risen by 40 per cent since 1984 and this year's budget of \$26.2 billion is already almost exhausted.

'Unscrupulous practices still continuing in Philippines'

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino's former aide said Wednesday that private firms conspired with the ousted administration to deceive the International Monetary Fund and that unscrupulous practices were continuing.

Mr. Joker Arroyo, who resigned this month as Mrs. Aquino's executive secretary, also said that bad government loans to private companies under former president Ferdinand Marcos had cost the country billions of dollars.

Some people involved in unethical practices are trying to influence the Aquino administration's economic policy, he said.

Mr. Arroyo presented documents alleging that the state-run Philippine National Oil Co., the central bank and Citibank were involved in deals to mislead IMF auditors and inflate the country's foreign currency holdings by up to \$600 million.

The government lost about 75 billion pesos (\$3.75 billion) in loans to some 280 private companies during Marcos' rule, he said.

Mr. Arroyo said some people who benefitted from such loans "are now going around like respectable citizens and they still want to wield economic power." He gave no names.

All the transactions cited by Mr. Arroyo took place under the Marcos administration. During a recess, reporters asked Mr. Arroyo whether unscrupulous practices still were going on under Mrs. Aquino. Mr. Arroyo replied, "yes," but refused to elaborate.

Meanwhile, a strike paralysed transport near the Philippine capital on Wednesday. Hundreds of drivers of buses and jeepneys — elongated minibuses — went on strike in Bataan province, north of Manila.

Oil embargo may hurt Iran more

BAHRAIN (R) — An arms embargo against Iran would have little more than symbolic value and a boycott of Iranian oil might be the only effective way to stall Tehran's war machine, Gulf-based diplomats said on Wednesday.

As the United States began to rally international support for an arms embargo, the diplomats said it would be almost impossible to stop weapons reaching Tehran.

"An arms embargo cannot be watertight... it will be a symbolic gesture and, frankly, will Iran care?" said one senior Western diplomat.

The Iranian government, forced into the black market for weapons after the fall of the shah in 1979, has had more than eight years to forge a network of contacts with the shadowy world of arms dealers and built up its own munitions industry.

Some diplomats believe a more effective, though no less politically fraught, way to stem the flow of weapons would be to cut off Iran's main source of income by imposing a world-wide oil boycott.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said on Tuesday Washington had begun drafting a U.N. resolution to impose an arms embargo on Iran as the belligerent in the war with Iraq.

But one Gulf-based diplomat

said: "I am afraid the idea hasn't been thought through. In theory it is straightforward, but the practicalities will not work."

A U.N. embargo on military sales to South Africa has been in force for 10 years but to little effect, diplomats said.

An uncompromising speech to the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Tuesday by Iranian President Ali Khamenei gave no clear indication that Tehran would accept the Security Council's July 20 order for a ceasefire.

Mr. Shultz's call for an arms embargo was backed by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, but the diplomats said some other members of the council, including West Germany, Japan, China and Italy, seemed hesitant to support it.

Backing for an oil embargo would also be difficult to secure but diplomats said Iran's weakest link, as Iraq's military strategy had already proved, was its almost total dependence on oil to fund the war.

Since U.S. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar ended a

Gulf war peace mission a week ago, Iraqi jets have bombed Iran's oil terminal at Kharg Island and its tankers.

Iraqi officials have made it clear there can be no question of negotiating on the U.N. resolution if Iran is playing for time while exporting oil worth \$25 million everyday.

"Nobody is pretending an oil embargo would be easy to enforce... but it would at least hit Iran where it hurts," said one Gulf-based oil company executive.

Iraq succeeded in cutting Iranian oil export to a trickle for about a month last year, but the rate has recovered to more than two million barrels a day despite Baghdad's attacks.

The diplomats argued that the most punishing sanction against Iran would be to persuade nations and companies not to buy Tehran's crude.

Much of its production is sold to traders who then resell it to the highest bidder on world markets, but large quantities also go to Japan, Eastern Bloc countries and Third World nations.

One problem is that some Iranian oil is also pledged in barter deals which would be legally difficult to unscramble.

The mechanics of an arms embargo would probably rely on nations refusing to grant export

licences for deals with Iran plus, one diplomat said, "a large dose of moral suasion."

But there are many ways for Iran to skirt restrictions:

— Through the black market. Diplomats said Iran had been paying sometimes double the face value for weapons but an arms embargo would be unlikely to increase the cost still further.

— Iran's vast land borders and large coastline make arms smuggling easy. Military sources said it would be impractical for a U.N. force to check the hundreds of cargo ships and fishing boats plying the Gulf for weapons destined for Iran. On land, some U.S. weapons originally supplied to Afghan Mujahedin rebels are believed to have been resold to Tehran and brought in across the border.

— Iran is thought to have bought more than \$10 billion of weapons since the start of the war in 1980 from North and South Korea, China, Vietnam, Israel and Syria, with purchases often disguised through a third party.

— With its talent for improvisation, Iran now makes its own bullets, mortars and land and sea mines. It claims to have manufactured missiles which Western military sources say are versions of the Soviet surface-to-surface Scud-B.

Pravda urges Soviets to save harvest

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party daily Pravda urged an all-out effort on Wednesday to save the Soviet Union's harvest of grain and other crops hit by unusually heavy rain this autumn.

"All energies should now be devoted to the harvesting campaign in order to complete field work in an organised manner and without delay," it said in a front-page editorial.

Thousands of city-dwellers across the country have been sent into the fields to gather the harvest, in some cases by hand, before the end of September when early frosts are forecast.

Sixty-two collective farms in the Ulyanovsk region on the Volga River were left without electricity after storms broke power lines on Tuesday, the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya reported.

Pravda gave no precise figures but said grain was still unharvested on millions of hectares and the situation was especially critical in Siberia, parts of Kazakhstan

and areas of middle and northern Russia.

The maize, sunflower, sugar beet, cotton and potato harvests were all worse than last year, it said.

Crops which had been harvested were in many cases still lying out in wet fields or rotting because of poor storage, it added.

The government daily Izvestia said on Sept. 16 that grains and pulses excluding maize had been threshed on 83.9 million hectares or 77 per cent of the sown area compared with 92.9 million hectares or 93 per cent of the sown area at the same time last year.

Despite the crisis in the fields, Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's chief economic adviser, Mr. Abel Aganbegyan, told a U.S. magazine in an interview published as recently as Sunday that the 1987 grain crop would break the country's record of 237 million tonnes harvested in 1978.

No Soviet newspaper has yet revised a prediction made by

Izvestia in July that the harvest would be as good as or better than last year's crop of 210 million tonnes.

"The grain is there — it's just a question of bringing it in," said television commentator Anatoly Ilyanovskchenko.

But Western agricultural experts say the rains must have affected the harvest.

The U.S. Agriculture Department's latest estimate for the 1987 Soviet grain crop is 205 million tonnes, well short of the 232 million tonnes target set by the Kremlin in its bid to free the country from the need for hard-currency grain imports.

Oil output likely to reach record levels

Meanwhile, oil output by the Soviet Union, the world's largest producer, is likely to reach record levels this year if current trends continue, market experts said Tuesday.

They said that could mean the Soviet Union will boost its exports. It relies on petroleum sales to the West for around 60 per cent of hard currency earnings, and low oil prices and a weak dollar have played havoc with its foreign trade balance.

Average 1987 oil output is forecast at 12.45 million barrels daily, up from 12.3 million last year. Mr. Jonathan Stern, head of the joint energy programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) told Reuters.

As a result, exports to the West may exceed 1.6 million barrels of crude and oil products a day, compared with a 1984 record of 1.65 million and last year's 1.55 million, analysts said.

The Soviet State Statistics Committee said on Sept. 12 that production was two per cent above the same period in 1986.

A report by Petroleum Economics Ltd (PEL) said crude output in the first half of 1987 averaged 12.55 million barrels daily.

Italian company unveils new sedan model

MILAN (AP) — Alfa Romeo on Tuesday unveiled Italy's most expensive sedan, the 164 model, which the company hopes will triple its sales on the U.S. market.

Mr. Vittorio Ghidella, chairman of the second-largest Italian auto maker said the 164 is expected to face tough competition from the Japanese automakers Honda and Toyota, which have launched new luxury models in the United States.

Mr. Ghidella told a news conference that Alfa expects the new model will help the company sell

at least 20,000 cars in the United States in 1988.

Alfa Romeo, for whose control Fiat challenged and defeated a bid by the U.S. Ford Motor Corp., estimated its 1987 sales on the American market at 7,100. Alfa Romeo was taken over by the Fiat group last year and merged into Fiat operations in January.

The four and six-cylinder, turbo-charged sedan will go on sale in Italy next month and will be marketed in Europe and the United States by June 1988.

Mr. Ghidella said the 164,

available in four different versions with a capacity between 1.9-cc to 2.9-cc, will cost between 30 million to 45 million lire (\$23,500 to \$34,600).

Alfa, for which Fiat announced massive investments over the next five years to modernise and improve its productivity and strengthen its distribution abroad, also announced that its 1987 sales are expected to reach 203,000, up from 185,000 a year earlier.

Sales of Alfa, formerly a state-controlled company, will amount to 3 trillion lire (\$2.3 billion) this

year, a 12 per cent increase from 1986. Sales on the European market accounted for 35.5 per cent of the total.

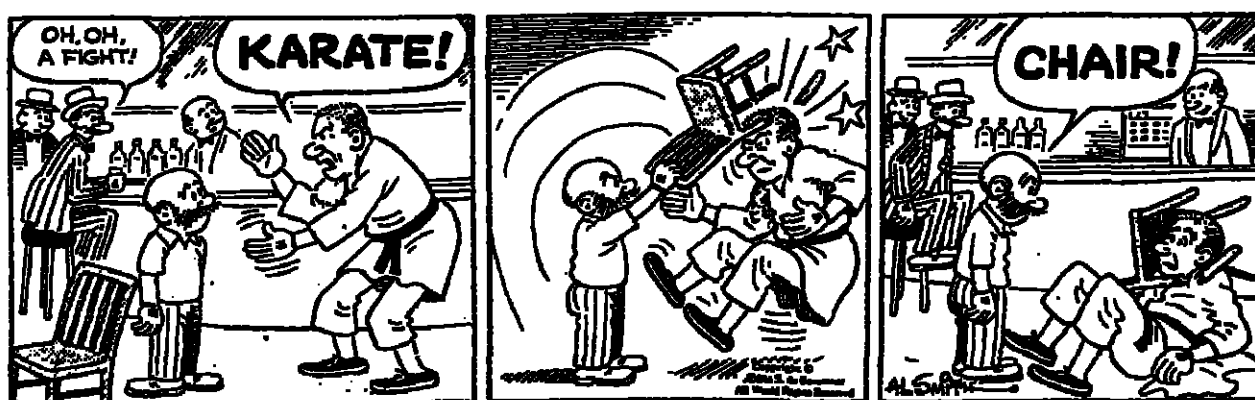
Mr. Giuseppe Tramontana, managing director of Alfa Romeo, said the company will remain in the red in 1987 but added that a break-even point should be reached within two years. He did not disclose the extent of the 1987 deficit, however.

The latest known loss of Alfa Romeo was 200 billion lire (\$153 million) in 1985.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

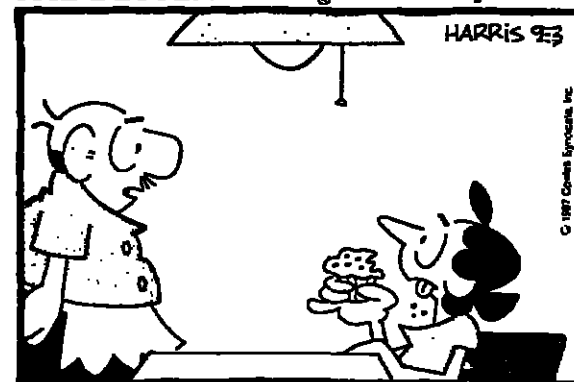


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEEPH
ENDUC
NIGINN
ROSABB



Print answer here: HE WAS A

Yesterday's Jumbles: COLON MINOR UNEASY GROUGH
Answer: Where our laws are made, and how they sometimes seem — "INCONGRUOUS" (in Congress)

2 Central American leaders announce new peace moves

MEXICO CITY (R) — Presidents Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, their countries racked by Central America's worst guerrilla wars, have announced new moves aimed at bringing peace to the region.

Mr. Ortega said in a surprise announcement on Tuesday that his forces would stop their offensives against U.S.-backed contra rebels in some areas.

He described the move as "a first step aimed at achieving a total ceasefire."

Mr. Ortega also said the country's Roman Catholic radio station, closed for 19 months, would be allowed to broadcast again.

Both moves were in line with the peace plan signed by Mr. Ortega, Mr. Duarte and three other Central American leaders in Guatemala City on Aug. 7.

Mr. Duarte, meanwhile, appeared on television and radio in El Salvador to offer a peace parley with his country's leftist rebels on Oct. 4.

There was no immediate response from the Marxist-led guerrillas but if they accepted, diplomats said, it would be a major breakthrough for peace in troubled El Salvador and for the regional plan in general.

Mr. Duarte and the rebels have not sat down together since 1984. He did offer peace talks last month but although the guerrillas indicated they were prepared to talk, they refused to lay down their arms beforehand.

The peace plan calls for ceasefires in all regional guerrilla wars — in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala — by Nov. 7, as well as amnesties and greater individual liberties such as freedom of the press.

Many observers inside and outside the region, notably the U.S. government, have expressed scepticism over the five nations' ability to meet the terms of the plan by the November deadline. But Mr. Ortega's latest moves appeared to give the plan further impetus, regional diplomats said.

The Nicaraguan leader had already announced on Sunday that he would allow the reopening, without censorship, of the main opposition newspaper La Prensa.

The paper was closed 15 months ago for criticizing the Sandinista government and even before then, it was censored.

Diplomats in the region said the latest moves by Mr. Ortega would put more pressure on Washington to cease aid to the contras.

In Washington a State Department official said Nicaragua's announcement of a partial ceasefire is a "trick" aimed at avoiding peace talks with the contra rebels.

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams said in an interview Tuesday night that there can be no meaningful ceasefire until the parties "sit down and talk about how to get the shooting stopped."

A State Department spokesman earlier said President Ronald Reagan and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias agreed in their meeting Tuesday morning

that any unilateral ceasefire would not comply with the accord which the five Central American presidents signed Aug. 7.

Mr. Arias, asked about Nicaragua's announcement, said any ceasefire would have to be negotiated to be effective.

"I don't think a unilateral ceasefire will be enough," he said. "Both parties will have to agree."

Mr. Abrams said the ceasefire was announced by President Daniel Ortega on his own and "it can be ended by Ortega by fiat." He added that the announcement provides no protection for the contras.

At the White House, spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "A unilateral ceasefire is meaningless without conditions."

He said the White House believes there must be a negotiated ceasefire "involving both parties" that includes the contra rebels.

In Miami, a top contra official said Tuesday that a partial ceasefire declared by Nicaragua's government was a public relations ploy and that his rebel army would not honour it.

"There is no ceasefire. We take it as a simple publicity stunt on President Ortega's part," said Aristides Sanchez, one of six directors of the contra umbrella group, the Nicaraguan Resistance.

Mr. Sanchez said that under the regional peace plan, ceasefires must be negotiated between the two sides, not declared unilaterally.

"The rules of such a ceasefire are completely in favour of the party who declares it," Mr. Sanchez said. "We need to guarantee the physical and moral integrity of our troops."

Senate defeats attempt to cut SDI funding

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate, in a victory for President Reagan, has defeated an attempt to further slash 1988 funding for the "Star Wars" anti-missile programme.

With Vice President George Bush casting a dramatic deciding vote, the Senate voted 51 to 50 against cutting \$1 billion in "Star Wars" funding from the 1988 defence bill. Mr. Reagan had originally requested \$5.7 billion but a Senate Committee had already reduced that to \$4.7 billion.

"Star Wars," formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), is a research programme into ground and space-based weapons which could lead to deployment of at least a preliminary system to shoot down attacking nuclear missiles as early as the mid-1990s.

Mr. Reagan, who created the programme in 1983, says a "Star Wars" defensive shield can make nuclear missiles obsolete and he has vowed not to give in to Moscow's demands that the programme be cut back as part of a superpower treaty.

Moscow opposes SDI, saying it could be used for offensive purposes and would herald a new arms race in space. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said there can be no treaty on strategic weapons unless Washington agrees to SDI curbs.

During Tuesday's debate in the Democratic-controlled Senate, Republicans and some conservative Democrats defended the programme, saying it was vital to protect U.S. security and had motivated Moscow to enter into an agreement last week to conclude a treaty eliminating medium-range nuclear forces.

The Democratic-controlled Senate later handed President Reagan another victory by rejecting an amendment to the 1988 defence bill that would have prohibited anti-satellite weapons (ASAT) tests unless Moscow also had carried out ASAT testing.

The anti-satellite measure, defeated 47-to-51, would have barred the Defence Department from using funds to test anti-satellite weapons unless the president certified to Congress that the Soviet Union had tested ASAT systems.

1,200 Indian paramilitary troops sent to Sri Lanka

MADRAS, India (R) — India has sent a 1,200-strong Paramilitary Force to Sri Lanka to back up its 8,000 peacekeeping troops enforcing a peace pact on the island, official sources said on Wednesday.

The sources said the Paramilitary Force was airlifted from this South Indian city to the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka on Monday and Tuesday and that an additional 1,200 Paramilitary troops were expected to be flown there later.

The Paramilitary Force was sent at Colombo's request for help in maintaining law and order in the two provinces torn by a four-year Tamil separatist rebellion in which at least 6,000 people have died, the sources said. The peace agreement was signed seven-weeks ago.

The sources said the Paramilitary Force would carry out duties of the 8,000 peacekeeping troops who are enforcing a July 29 agreement signed to end an ethnic war between minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese on the island.

Indian troops arrested 15 gunmen this week after members of the Tamil Tigers group massacred 75 Tamil Tamils in the eastern district of Batticaloa.

The sources said the Sri Lankan government had asked for Indian Paramilitary Forces two weeks ago but New Delhi had rejected the request saying it was "inadvisable."

However, India changed its mind last week after Sri Lanka complained that its own police force in the two provinces, comprising 400 ethnic Tamils, proved "grossly inadequate" in carrying out its task.

Indian troops raid Golden Temple complex; detain 20

NEW DELHI (R) — Police raided the complex housing the Golden Temple, holiest shrine of the Sikh religion, on Wednesday and detained about 20 suspected Sikh extremists, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The news agency said police, accompanied by six companies of Paramilitary Forces, raided the temple complex at Amritsar and a building owned by temple authorities after receiving information that extremists were gathering there disguised as devotees attending a religious observance.

Police were still searching the buildings in the north Indian state of Punjab and had so far found a pistol, some cartridges and "indiscriminate documents," the news agency said.

The raid, the first since July, follows a spate of attacks in the Amritsar district, a hotbed of Sikh extremism.

About 650 people were killed in the whole of 1986. The bloodshed is at its highest level since June 1984, when more than 1,000 people were killed when the army stormed the Golden Temple.

Philippine army moves against rebel saboteurs

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military said on Wednesday it would send elite troops to an area where Communist rebels have blown up a series of bridges.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos told reporters he had assigned a battalion of Scout Rangers, trained in guerrilla warfare, to boost military strength in the Bicol region south of Manila.

Saboteurs have operated with apparent freedom in the region, wrecking five road and rail bridges in the past two weeks.

On Tuesday, they destroyed a wooden railway bridge in the area in what the military said was an apparent attempt to cut a main supply route between the capital and a major coconut-growing area in the south.

Gen. Ramos who flew south to tour military facilities in the province, insisted that the army was in control.

The Communists were massing in specific areas to give an impression of strength, but were not gaining territory across the country, he said.

On Tuesday, Gen. Ramos told reporters he had asked congress to pass a law requiring all Filipinos to carry identification cards.

The cards would help the military find guerrillas hiding in residential areas and make it easier to combat terrorism, he said.

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COLUMNS 768

Liz Taylor brings stardom to Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor brought Hollywood to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to plead for congressional support for the fight against AIDS, a cause she publicly embraced when it claimed her friend Rock Hudson. Normally sombre congressmen grinned broadly, made some silly statements and stared attentively at the witness, who had attracted the glare of television lights to their hearing on AIDS. With most members of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health in attendance, along with a heavy turnout of their staff, the actress began by telling the gathering: "We must keep in mind that AIDS is a crisis." She soon ran into trouble, however, stumbling as she read from her prepared statement. When she mistakenly spoke of a "venerable disease" instead of "venereal disease," it was time to stop. "I'm sorry, I'd better put on my glasses," she said sheepishly. The act prompted Representative Edward Madigan, a Republican, to declare gallantly: "Let me assure you that to everyone over 40-years old you're quite attractive with your glasses on." Later, Representative William Dannemeyer, a Republican, started to challenge Ms. Taylor about the backstage ground of a spokesman for the group she represents, the American Foundation for AIDS Research. When she reacted negatively to the question, Mr. Dannemeyer told the actress: "I mention it today because I probably won't get a chance to meet with you again in our lifetime."

Titanic treasures displayed in France

PARIS (R) — Organisers of an expedition to the wreck of the Titanic showed for the first time on Tuesday objects retrieved from the ocean floor 75 years after the liner dubbed unsinkable went down off Newfoundland. Restoration specialist Jacques Mouton displayed a dish made of copper and silver, a pair of spectacles in a leather case, a silver ladle, a bottle and a metal wall plaque. The objects, among 800 brought to Paris over the weekend, were taken from a water tank for display at the Paris laboratory which will restore them. The expedition has been condemned as "grave robbery" by relatives of more than 1,500 people who died on the British liner, making its maiden voyage after it hit an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic on the night of April 14-15, 1912.

Violent passengers to be handcuffed

LONDON (R) — British Airways passengers who become violent or unruly will be handcuffed in future, a spokesman for the airline said. The airline had ordered thousands of pairs of plastic handcuffs this week after cabin crew complained that violent behaviour had increased and they were being physically and verbally abused, especially on charter flights. "We are falling in line with many other airlines who use small strips of plastic that can be stripped quickly over passengers' hands," the spokesman said. Restraints used by other airlines ranged from metal handcuffs and strait jackets to coshes and strong adhesive tape, he said.

Thoughtful thieves return 17 gold coins

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Unknown thieves who stole priceless antique gold coins returned them a day later with a message saying, "it is high time that these things be guarded better." The Tanjug news agency reported Monday. It said a collection of 17 gold coins, dating from the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D., were stolen during an exhibition in the central Adriatic town of Split. The missing coins and the message were found in a Split mailbox following an anonymous telephone tip to police. Criminal charges have been filed against the director of the Split Archaeological Museum and the chief of the exhibit for negligence in guarding the coins, the report said.

Hirohito recovering 'well' after surgery

TOKYO (R) — Japan's 86-year-old Emperor Hirohito was reported to be recovering extremely well on Wednesday after intestinal surgery but doctors are continuing tests on the monarch to check whether he has cancer.

The imperial Household Agency said in a terse statement that Emperor Hirohito, the world's longest-reigning ruler, "is showing no signs of distress and is recovering extremely well."

The emperor underwent surgery on Tuesday to relieve a blocked intestine.

Doctors are conducting tests to pinpoint the cause of the blockage, the agency said. They are

studying samples of pancreatic tissue.

The chief surgeon, Dr. Yasuhiko Morioka, told a televised news conference on Tuesday they had expected to find a problem with the intestines but discovered the emperor's pancreas was swollen.

"There are various doubts about cancer, and doctors are planning to conduct a pathological examination of part of the pancreas removed during the operation," Dr. Morioka said.

He said the results would be available in about a week.

Dr. Morioka, who spent the night by the emperor's bedside, told reporters on Wednesday that

Emperor Hirohito's temperature and blood pressure were normal. The operation, which lasted nearly two and a half hours, was the emperor's first major surgery.

Crown Prince Akihito, the emperor's eldest son, took over his father's official duties.

The emperor, who ascended the chrysanthemum throne in 1926, had never before delegated his duties for health reasons.

Prince Akihito acted as regent during the emperor's 1971 visit to Europe, and again in 1975 when Hirohito made a historic trip to the United States.

Papandreu reshuffles cabinet

ATHENS (R) — Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has brought three leading radicals back to his Greek cabinet in a reshuffle that could pave the way for an early general election.

The move strengthens the cabinet's left-wing ranks and follows opposition press reports of rivalry between the premier and his American-born wife within the ruling Socialist Pasok Party.

The three leftist politicians returned to his cabinet on Tuesday night after having been ousted in a reshuffle only last February.

Diplomats and analysts said their reappointment was designed to meet mounting criticism of government policies, which include an economic austerity programme, by the vocal left-wing of Pasok and prepare for the next general elections.

One diplomat said of Mr. Papandreu's action: "Maybe he wants to gather his friends around him and this is why the left-wingers are back."

Mr. Papandreu, who won a second term in power in 1985, does not have to call new elec-

tions until 1989, but speculation is growing that he will choose an early poll next year after tackling the delicate question of whether to allow American military bases to remain in Greece.

Foreign diplomats said the reshuffle followed opposition newspaper reports that Margaret Papandreu was challenging her husband's position in Pasok.

Newspapers said she wanted to start her own political party, although she has called the reports nonsense.

Mrs. Papandreu is supported by some elements in the Pasok Party.

The returning left-wingers are Akis Tsohatzopoulos, who takes over as interior minister. Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas who becomes vice-president and justice minister, and George Yenni-matas who takes over as labour minister.

The other two new ministers are Yannis Floros as minister of health and Evangelos Yannopoulos as merchant marine minister.

Australian court to decide on Spycatcher appeal today

SYDNEY (R) — Three Australian judges will rule on Thursday on the British government's appeal to maintain a ban on the memoirs of former secret service agent Peter Wright.

The New South Wales court of appeal verdict will be crucial to Mr. Wright's two-year legal battle against Britain to release his book, *Spycatcher*, through the publishers Heinemann.

Spycatcher has been published in the United States and hundreds of copies are in circulation in Australia and Britain.

But Britain told the three-judge panel during a five-day hearing in July that Mr. Wright, a former MI5 counter-espionage agent, still had a "duty of confidentiality."

"Wright and Heinemann may be the only two in the world who cannot publish this (book). So be it," lawyer Theo Simos, representing the British government,

told the court. Any judgment on the British appeal could be challenged in the high court of Australia, the supreme legal body in the country.

Britain has asked the appeal court to reverse an order by New South Wales Supreme Court Judge Philip Powell in March to lift an injunction restraining Mr. Wright from publishing his book.

Judge Powell rejected Britain's claim that publication of *Spycatcher* would damage its security interests but allowed a continuation of the injunction pending the appeal court decision.

Mr. Wright, 71, who has been living in the southern island state of Tasmania after retiring in 1976, said in court that the British intelligence service was riddled with Soviet agents and most of the revelations in his book had already been published by other authors.

Biden considers quitting U.S. presidential race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senator Joseph Biden met Wednesday with family members and close aides to decide whether to abandon his seriously damaged campaign for the U.S. presidency.

"I'm not going to make that judgment now," Sen. Biden said Tuesday night as he headed home to Wilmington, Delaware.

But one key aide said some of Sen. Biden's advisers have urged him to withdraw from the 1988 race for the opposition Democratic Party nomination. And Anne Lewis, one of the senator's campaign directors, said, "I'm aware that it's definitely a possibility."

Sen. Biden's campaign has been struggling to recover from a string of disclosures that he has used the words of other politicians in his speeches without attribution, plagiarised material during law school and later exaggerated his academic accomplishments.

If Sen. Biden decides to quit the race, he would be the second Democrat to do so over matters of personal integrity, months before the first voter makes a choice in a state caucus or primary. The caucuses and primaries will choose delegates to the national Democratic and Republican Par-

ty nominating conventions in the summer of 1988.

Former Senator Garry Hart ended his campaign earlier this year following questions about his relationship with model Donna Rice.

Sen. Biden's outstanding skill as a speaker and his successful fund-raising efforts meant he brought formidable assets to the campaign.

The first blow fell when it was disclosed that Sen. Biden had lifted campaign speech material from British politician Neil Kinnock, delivering a personal anecdote as if it were his own. That was followed by reports — swiftly confirmed by the senator — that he had plagiarised material for a law school paper more than 20 years ago.

Sen. Biden's political situation became more troubled Monday when he confirmed published reports that he had exaggerated his academic credentials and accomplishments in a heated exchange with a voter last spring.

Meanwhile in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Harold Stassen has launched his eighth bid for the White House, but said doesn't plan to win.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkesson

SMALL CHANGE

By J. Miller

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9 Lounge
13 Cheeky
17 Pope
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20 Heron like
21 Deluge
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23 Way to go
24 Name feature
27 Padges
28 Slave
29 Tempestable
30 Come to a point
31 One-time newsman
32 Fertilized
33 He wrote "Hell
34 Brimble"
35 — shark

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10 Capp character
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14 Cad
15 Head
16 Sledge leader
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18 Quaker
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20 "R.L.R." playwright
21 Ghost

Diagrams

19 x 19, By Roger Cohen

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5 Green-eyed
6 Animated
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8 Macbeth's title
9 Ours
10 So be it
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41 Spends very little
42 Sings fear
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45 Prohibitive tool
46 Sign of a hit
47 The lachrymose
48 "pleasing of" (Shakespeare)
49 Old dance
50 Blair or Levin
51 Sassy old style
52 Braid dance
53 Flimflam
54 Chaney
55 Conversation starter

- 56 Like parts of Chile
57 Song book
58 Phoebe
59 Feeling regret
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70 Unpleasantly
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73 Coarse people

- 66 Metal bar
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71 Sings fear
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74 Sings fear
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83 Actor or diva
84 Close a pole
85 Moonen scored
86 Poor
87 Nobel chemist
88 Overish
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90 "For — the Bell
91 Tote"
92 Horse king
93 Ground
94 Cupid
95 " — of Wine and
96 Flawless of a kind
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98 Military
99 Bottles
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- 101 Sea
102 Unusual items
103 Actor or diva
104 Close a pole
105 Moonen scored
106 Poor
107 Nobel chemist
108 Overish
109 Stunner
110 "For — the Bell
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112 Horse king
113 Ground
114 Cupid
115 " — of Wine and
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